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Gays Against Gary Glenn Looks To Educate Public

9th U.S. Circuit Court To Hear Arguments

"Barber shops have always been the epicenter for cultural thought and dialog. Why not educate (barbers) about HIV and its impact on the community?"

– Akilah Benton , pg. 4

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN LITHGOW

Actor On His 'Defiance Of Prejudice' & Humanizing Gay Rights

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Photo: Sony Classics

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Political Hors D'oeuvre

This series by Todd Heywood will bring you bite size nuggets from the political and governmental world and contextualize it within LGBT equality issues and the broader progressive agenda. At the end of the day, the political hor d'oeuvre is designed to give you supplemental information to better inform your understanding of today's political jockeying, how that fits into the history and what it could mean for tomorrow.

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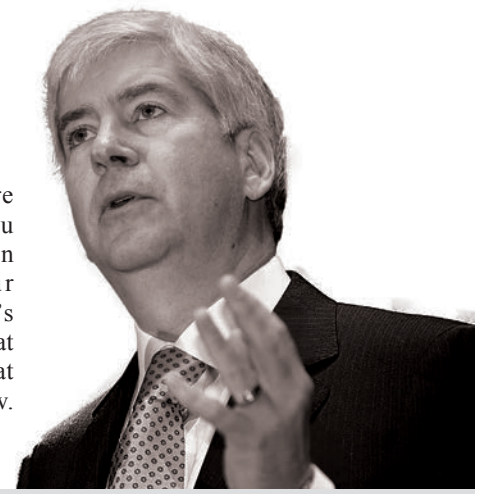

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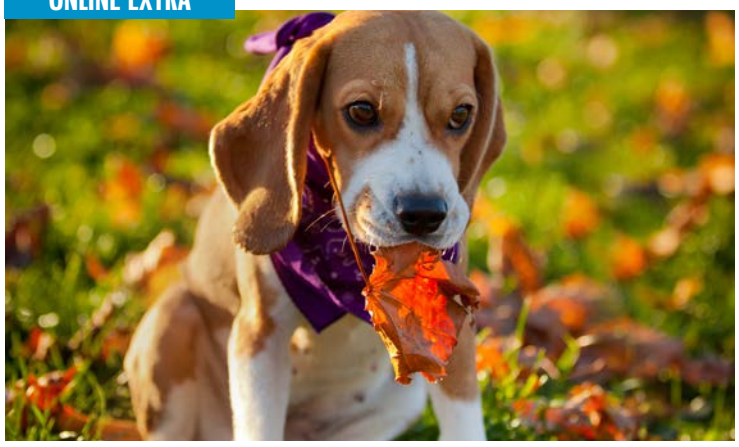

Here Comes The Fall 'Pamper Your Pet Issue'

The Fall Pet issue is just around the corner! Check out fascinating pet-related content and get to know LGBT veterinarians, pet supply stores and more. On stands Sept. 18 and online at Pridesource.com

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New AIDS Partnership Michigan Coordinator To Tackle HIV, MSM Stigma For Detroit Agency

Upcoming AIDS Walk Locations

Throughout September and early October, cities around the state will hold their annual AIDS Walks. Find a location near you and take some time to get out, walk and raise money for a great cause.

DETROIT/ROYAL OAK
Sept. 14
Time: Registration from 8:30-11:00 a.m.
Walk 10:30 a.m.-Noon.
Location: Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 E. 11 Mile Road.
Free.
http://aidswalkdetroit.com

GRAND RAPIDS
Sept. 13
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Rosa Parks Circle
135 Monroe Center NW
$25
http://redproject.org/aidswalk

LANSING
Sept. 28
Time: Registration at 11 a.m. Walk at 1 p.m.
Location: Valley Court Park, behind People's Church in East Lansing
Free.
www.laanonline.org

SAGINAW
Sept. 20
Time: Registration at 9 :30 a.m. Walk at 10:30 a.m., followed by 11 a.m. rally.
Location: Saginaw Valley State University President's Courtyard, 7400 Bay Road, University Center
https://secure.qgiv.com/hobnob/event/34435

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 8
Time: Registration at 6:30 p.m. Walk at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Island Park at the West Pavilion, 311 N. Main, Mt. Pleasant.
$10-25.
www.cmdhd.org/5kglow

TRAVERSE CITY
Sept. 28
Time: Registration at 11:30 a.m.
Walk at 1 p.m.
Location: Grand Traverse Civic Center,
1213 W. Civic Center Dr.
Call organizer Brian Simerson at 231-935-2785 for pledge forms.

BY TODD HEYWOOD

As a teen, Akilah Benton volunteered with the city of Detroit Health Department. The experience of what she witnessed in the early 2000s, she says, launched her on a trajectory to address HIV and the systematic obstacles which inform, feed and encourage it.

"It was alarming for me to hear about the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea within the city of Detroit," she says. "There was this idea of kids doing this buzz, catching this buzz, that if your friend had HIV or an STD, you were going to expose yourself and put yourself at risk to get that disease as well."

Hearing that was "alarming" for her and launched her on a career trajectory that has now landed her at AIDS Partnership Michigan as that organization's new community mobilization and public relations coordinator. It's a post the 29-year-old Detroit native appears to have been on for years.

As a child, her family opened an adult foster care home and the clients lived in the house with them. She said it was then, in about the fifth grade, that she discovered the joys of "humbling" herself in service of others. She also began to see more clearly the othering that was happening to America's hidden populations – the elderly and the disabled.

AIDS Partnership Michigan's Akilah Benton. Photo Courtesy of Akilah Benton.

"I loved working with my family," she says. She worked with her family for a time following graduation from Wayne State University with an undergraduate degree in anthropology. Despite loving the work, she felt a need to follow her true passion.

"I had a resounding desire to step into the arena I wanted to be in, which was public health, specifically looking at health disparities as they applied to women and children," Benton says. She entered graduate school in Florida and spent time working on the epidemic in South Africa.

How HIV became a passion for her is a blurry memory.

"There was a time – I don't remember when or where it was – I learned that African Americans make up 10 to 11 percent of the world's population but over half of the incidence of HIV/AIDS. That was just alarming to me," she says. "Knowing that my sisters and brothers, my family, my friends, my community members are plagued by this epidemic more than any other racial group or demographic – that was really alarming to me and it stood out, made me want to be a part of the change."

And in her new role, Benton is planning to lead APM in becoming an even stronger agent for change in the fight against HIV in Detroit. She noted the organization's ground breaking "Status Sexy" campaign's success as an example of how she plans to combine new media and old fashioned grass roots action. The social media program started three years ago solely as a social media program – now it's the source of the largest condom distribution in the city.

To build on that success, Benton says she plans to connect with barber shops throughout the city.

> *"There was a time – I don't remember when or where it was – I learned that African Americans make up 10 to 11 percent of the world's population but over half of the incidence of HIV/AIDS. That was just alarming to me."*
>
> - AIDS PArtnership Michigan's Akilah Benton

"Barber shops have always been the epicenter for cultural thought and dialogue," she says. "Why not educate [barbers] about HIV and its impact on the community?"

With that education, then comes conversation Benton says will be essential in addressing the HIV crisis in Detroit. But she's under no illusion that this will be an easy conversation.

"There is still a very serious issue with stigma," she says of African Americans discussing same-sex coupling and behavior. "No one wants to have this conversation; as a result, African American MSM [men who have sex with men] are discriminated against."

She says the timing is right, however, for such discussions to happen in the community.

"I'm optimistic," she says. "I think we're moving towards equality not only for MSM, but the LGBT community as a whole."

From her observations, MSM in Detroit are facing this epidemic in large part because of other social determinants of health – those things which impact health but are not directly health related. For instance, well paying jobs, stable and safe housing, food and transportation.

See APM Coordinator, page 7

Gays Against Gary Glenn Moves Forward

MI GAGG Initiative Looks To Educate Public On Anti-Gay Crusader

BY AJ TRAGER

Sixty-eight days from now, registered Michigan voters will choose whom they would like to see as Michigan's next elected officials. In the 98th Michigan House district, which includes part of Midland and Bay County, the race for the open seat is hot, especially for LGBT voters.

American Family Association's President for the Michigan chapter since 1999, Gary Glenn, won the Republican primary in August and is set to run against Democratic candidate and former Director of Worship at her local parish, Joan Brausch. The LGBT&A Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party has come out in strong support of Brausch and has launched the Gays Against Gary Glenn (GAGG) campaign.

Glenn is nationally known for his legacy of fighting against the LGBT community, continually coming out with anti-gay positions and using the legislature to support them.

Glenn co-authored the 2004 Marriage Protection amendment to Michigan's Constitution, which bans marriage equality, and has warned that companies should be wary of hiring LGBT people (said in a 2011 interview with Linda Harvey from Mission America).

BTL featured Gary Glenn as Creep of the Week back in 2006 after he sent out an email responding to a Lansing ordinance, seeking to include the LGBT among a list of protected classifications that would protect from discrimination. Glenn called the ordinance "discriminatory and dangerous."

His talking points in the email included a claim that the ordinance isn't needed because, "Individuals who engage in homosexual behavior and cross-dressing already have all the same rights provided to all Americans by the Constitution and federal, state, and local law," and outwardly stated that the transgender community, specifically transwomen, are "men who are so mentally or emotionally disturbed that they've had themselves surgically altered to be officially recognized by the state as a 'female.'" Glenn asks if parents are comfortable subjecting their children to being "forced" to share public restrooms and shower facilities with such "mentally disturbed" people.

Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT&A Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, and candidate Joan Brausch of the 98th district at the 2014 Democratic Nominating Convention speaking to the LGBT&A Caucus. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

The Republican candidate describes his platform on the campaign site as being "conservative but not radical." He wants to "create new, better and high paying jobs; push for the best and safest schools to meet the education needs of all students; protect Michigan from ObamaCare and restore the freedom to control personal healthcare decisions without government interference; and support values that encourage strong marriages, families, neighborhoods and communities."

Brausch's platform paints a brighter picture, focusing on what the state can do to improve, instead of maintaining outdated legislation.

Brausch is running on a platform of jobs, education and roads. She wants to work towards public education, restore funding to Pre-K through High School, increase funds for higher education, continue to build up STEM programs, pay fair wages to public education teachers, secure good jobs in the area, get more regional cooperation among the tri-counties, raise the minimum wage to $10.10/hr, preserve the Great Lakes resources, create oversight of Michigan's fracking industry and create more solar and green energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

> The LGBT&A Caucus launched the GAGG campaign in efforts to keep what Mark LaChey describes as a "homophobic" candidate out of the Michigan House of Representatives.

LGBT contributions are approaching the $10,000 mark for Brausch's campaign, but a lot more is needed to ensure that Brausch wins the seat over Glenn.

Other contributors to Brausch's campaign include the UAW PAC which has donated a significant amount of money, the League of Conservation

See GAGG, page 8

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BRIEFS

Michigan Bar To Honor DeBoer Attorneys

Michigan State Bar members will assemble this month to honor and present awards to top legal professionals in the state.

State Bar of Michigan members will gather Sept. 17 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids to honor 15 Michigan Bar members. The DeBoer attorneys will be amongst a group of 12 State Bar of Michigan lawyers awarded for excellence in the field.

The DeBoer v. Snyder team consisting of four attorneys - Kenneth M. Mogill, Dana M. Nessel, Robert A. Sedler and Carole M. Stanyar - will be awarded the Champion of Justice Award. They worked largely on a pro bono basis and served as a model for superior lawyering. For eight days of testimony, these four represented the plaintiffs April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, the Mich. couple seeking to jointly adopt their three children.

The team celebrated a landmark victory on March 21 when Judge Bernard A. Friedman struck down Michigan's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Friedman was the first judge to not issue a stay on his ruling. However, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay the following day on March 22.

The case was presented to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 6 along with same-sex marriage cases from three other states. The country is currently awaiting the decision.

Must Attend September Events

With September now here, Michiganders can start to fill their calendars with tickets to early autumn's LGBT events. The first of these illustrious events includes Voices 2014 on Friday, Sept. 12, presented by the Ruth Ellis Center (REC) and the Lear Corporation. The evening of original youth composition including modern dance, sign language, spoken word and music will celebrate REC's 15 years of service to LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth. Tickets for the VIP Reception, which begins at 6 p.m., start at $275. Tickets for the 7 p.m. main event range from $75-175. Visit www.ruthelliscenter.org for tickets and more information.

Next week will feature DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. Michigan AIDS Coalition's annual event runs from Sept. 18-20, beginning with the opening night event, Cocktails By Design, that Thursday. The cocktail event features appetizers from area restaurants, entertainment, dancing, cocktails and more. Friday's event, Artworks Detroit, costs $75 and includes a silent and live auction of 150 pieces of art. Saturday's closing event, Dining By Design, is a limited seating gala dinner at $250 a ticket. All events will be held each day from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Former Federal Reserve Building at 160 W. Fort, Detroit. Purchase tickets at www.michiganaidscoalition.eventbrite.com.

Online Study On Shame Seeks Gay Men

The University of La Verne is seeking participants for an online study to evaluate how emotions like shame and guilt impact unprotected sex for men who have sex with men.

Participants are asked to fill out three surveys. The first will measure shame and guilt. The second will ask about sexual history over the past three months, as well as drug and alcohol use during that period. And the third will ask general information about age, ethnic background and annual income level. All three should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Instructions will be given at the end of the surveys to be entered into a raffle for the chance to win one of three $20 gift cards.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, male and have had unprotected anal or oral sex with another man in the past three months.

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Political Hors D'oeuvres

BY TODD HEYWOOD

This series will bring you bite size nuggets from the political and governmental world and contextualize it within LGBT equality issues and the broader progressive agenda. The name comes from the literal meaning of the word hors d'oeuvres, or "outside of the work," according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. At the end of the day, political hor d'oeuvres is designed to give you supplemental information to better inform your understanding of today's political jockeying, how that fits into the history and what it could mean for tomorrow.

The Debate About Debates: Why It Matters

Republican Senate candidate Terri Lynn Land has blown off an invitation from WOOD-TV 8 in Grand Rapids to participate in a debate Sept. 8 with her Democratic opponent, Gary Peters. WOOD-TV 8 says Land's camp has been silent on the invite, while Peters' accepted the debate invitation.

Land has been noticeably absent from the larger campaign trail, relying instead on a series of private, invitation only events. This became her de facto campaign strategy following what can only be described as a slow motion disaster when she held a press availability on Mackinac Island earlier this year. Land bumbled answers, tripped over her own ideas and generally provided a word salad of nothingness before announcing "I can't do this" and walking away.

With the former Secretary of State's performance on Mackinac, her stealth campaign makes sense. Political handlers clearly don't want a repeat of that incident, so you can bet they are going to avoid any debates or unscripted moments to soften the potential for any gaffs. Watch this campaign be played out via television and radio commercials as well as internet commercials and political mailings.

In the gubernatorial debate, the Detroit News reports that Governor Rick Snyder, the Republican incumbent, also declined to appear on the WOOD-TV 8 debates. His team says they have offered to debate Democratic opponent Mark Schauer in a series of three day time debates at the Detroit Economic Club. The DEC would be a Snyder friendly space, driven by business interests. Because the proposal calls for debates during the day, it would also prevent many Schauer supporters from being able to attend such debates because of job responsibilities.

Snyder and Schauer are now neck and neck in the race for governor. That means a debate could be a misstep for the governor and boon to Schauer, who still lags in name recognition. Any error in a debate could hurt either candidate in statewide polling.

Schauer has now unleashed a public relations campaign calling on Snyder to agree to five debates before the November general election.

But Snyder has a history of ducking the hard conversations. Between The Lines and a coalition of alternative news outlets have been trying to get a sit down interview with Snyder for years to no avail. His communications team doesn't even bother responding to requests, acting as if being interviewed by the state's gay newspaper and several alternative news outlets is below them.

Secretary of State Agrees to Stop Enforcing Constitutionally Vague Vanity Plate Law

Keep an eye out in Ann Arbor for a Michigan issued vanity plate reading WAR SUX. The Secretary of State has agreed to allow the plate as part of a federal court settlement over the First Amendment. Officials at the department, run by Republican Ruth Johnson, originally denied that plate – and one for an Upper Peninsula resident that read 1FIDEL – under a state law that allowed such denials when the plate was deemed "offensive to good taste and decency."

Gov. Rick Synder

Terri Lynn Land

Why Are They Refusing To Debate?

The ACLU brought a suit arguing that the law violated the First Amendment, and last week a federal judge in Grand Rapids agreed. The Detroit Free Press reports Federal District Court Judge Gordon Quist ruled that the First Amendment applies to license plates.

Officials originally denied the WAR SUX plate because SUX had a sexual connotation. Under the consent agreement, the SoS will no longer disapprove such plates when sexual words are used as slang to mean something other than sex.

No word yet if 1homo is available, or if it will be issued under the agreement.

MDCH Director James Haveman Resigns Effective Sept. 12

Michigan Department of Community Health Director James Haveman has announced he is stepping down from that role effective Sept. 12. He cited a stroke he suffered Memorial Day Weekend as the reason he moved his retirement up from 2015.

"Gov. Snyder has named MDCH Chief Deputy Director Nick Lyon as the new director," a press release from Snyder's communications office says. "Lyon served as deputy director of the MDCH Operations Administration from 2010 to 2011 and as deputy director of the Health Policy and Regulation Administration from 2003 to 2008. Prior to joining the MDCH, he served as the director of the Office of Budget Development and General Government within the State Budget Office and as the finance officer for the Department of Attorney General. Lyon earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Yale University."

Speaker Bolger Accepts Gay Money, Ticks Off Rep. Jack Hoogendyk

Jack Hoogendyk doesn't live or work in Michigan anymore – he runs a "crisis pregnancy" organization in Wisconsin – but he's keeping his nose in state politics. The uber conservative activist sent an email to his contact list on Aug. 21 attacking Speaker of the House Jase Bolger (R-Marshall). Bolger's crime? His leadership PAC has accepted a $50,000 donation from Colorado millionaire Tim Gill. Gill is gay and has used his software generated millions to promote equality in Colorado and across the country.

"It is obvious by Mr. Gill's $50,000 contribution to Jase Bolger's leadership PAC that he is working hard in Michigan to change the political landscape," Hoodendyk writes. "What are the paybacks Gill is expecting for his $50,000 investment? What collateral damage will occur to the party in the process? These are the questions that need to be answered."

So, using Hoogendyk's logic, just what "paybacks" are Richard "Dick" DeVos, James Nicholson, Ron Weiser and David Fischer, Sr. expecting for their combined hundreds of thousands in donations to Republican candidates, groups and campaigns? The Detroit News reports the quartet has donated a combined $660,450 to GOP causes. I suppose, in Hoogendyk's world, that money is OK because it comes from conservative icons who generally share his views.

See Political Hors D'oeuvres, page 11

East Lansing Approves Equal Benefits Ordinance

BY AJ TRAGER

EAST LANSING - The East Lansing City Council approved an Equal Benefits Ordinance on Sept. 2 that will prohibit the city from entering into contracts with contractors who discriminate against employees based on marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, including by failing to provide equal employment benefits for its employees with domestic partners.

The ordinance was passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote and will be effective immediately. East Lansing Mayor and long time advocate for LGBT equality, Nathan Triplett, posted on his Facebook just hours after the decision was made that the event was "progress."

The ordinance will ensure that the city does not support discrimination with taxpayer dollars, Triplett posts.

"Perhaps more importantly, the ordinance will use the City's market power to extend equal benefits in the private sector," he writes. "In fact, a survey of City contractors indicated that over 30 percent of City contractors currently do not provide equal benefits, but will do so if required as a condition of City contracts."

"I'm glad we have a community that is willing to lead on these issues. It's gratifying. I couldn't be happier that there was no opposition," Triplett said. "We're demonstrating to the state legislature that they are decades behind the state times. They need to catch up with the rest of the world."

The ordinance was proposed nearly a year ago, Triplett says, with support from city leaders and the Human Relations Commission (HRC) who said it would be in the best interest of the city to do business with contractors who do not discriminate.

> The Human Relations Commission in East Lansing said it would be in the best interest of the city to do business with contractors who do not discriminate.

The HRC of East Lansing released a statement in April supporting the ordinance, which would offer benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of city employees that are currently unavailable due to Michigan's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

"An Equal Benefits Ordinance will address one key piece of the inequality created by current state law," the HRC statement reads. "It will help attract the kinds of talent and forward-thinking contractors that will contribute greatly to the vitality of our local community."

Ordinance No. 1340 will amend Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of East Lansing by adding in Section 22-40 to Article II-Civil Rights: "To prohibit city contractors from discriminating against employees in the provision of benefits to their employee's domestic partners based on marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression."

East Lansing was the first city in the United States to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation back in 1972. The Gay Liberation Movement (now the Alliance of Queer and Ally Students) pressured the East Lansing City Council to pass the first ever anti-discrimination ordinance in March of 1972. Forty-two years later, President Barack Obama signed an executive order in July of 2014 prohibiting contractors who do business with the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Macomb County Considers Broader Anti-Bias Rules

MOUNT CLEMENS (AP) - Macomb County officials will vote on a new policy to protect against discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

A Board of Commissioners committee will consider the change Monday to provide greater protections for about 2,700 county employees. The policy will be taken up by the full board Sept. 18 if approved.

More than 35 communities have adopted similar rules in Michigan. Macomb County recently changed its human resources handbook that includes language about sexual orientation but doesn't address gender identity.

► **APM Coordinator**
Continued from p. 4

"Some of these men are more concerned about these determinates of health effecting their livelihood than HIV," she notes.

And that will also play a role in scaling up access to PrEP – pre-exposure prophylaxis – as a prevention option in the community.

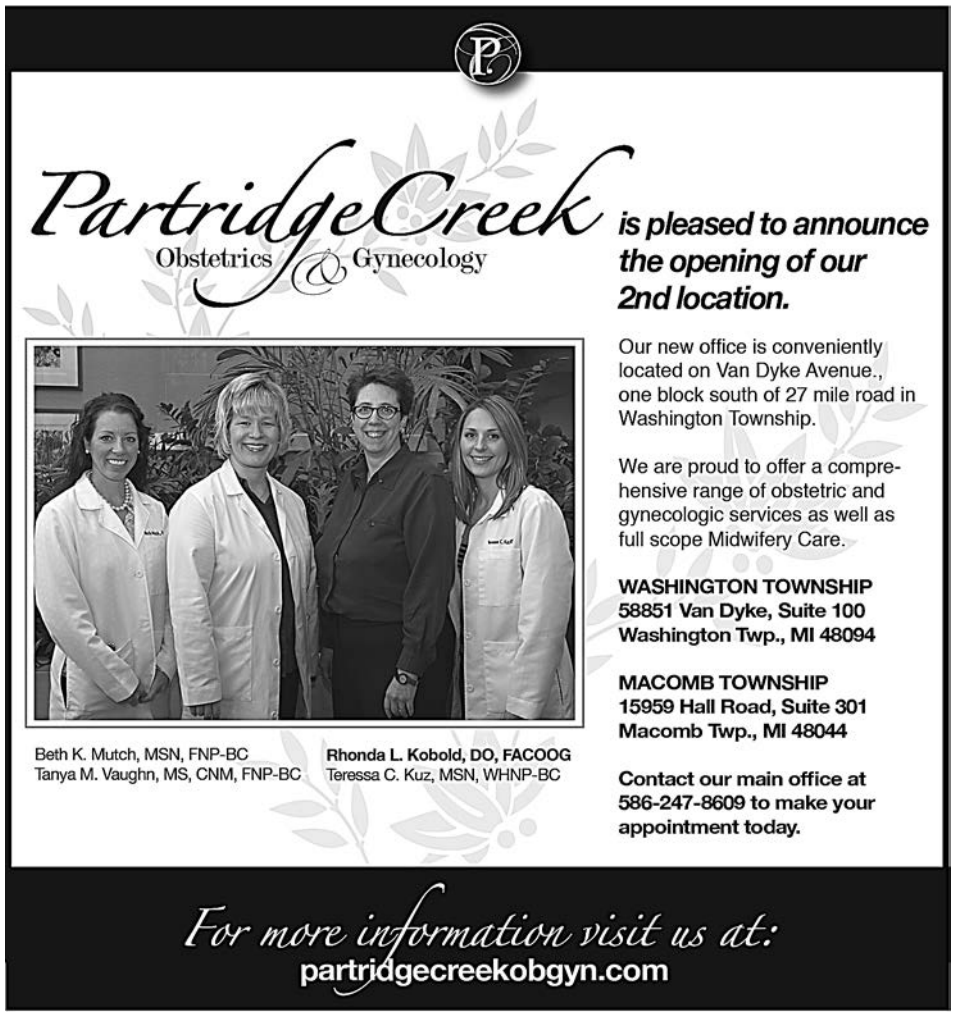
PrEP is a once a day pill which has been shown to be more than 90 percent effective at preventing an HIV negative person from becoming infected. But the drug is expensive and requires access to regular health care for blood work and STD screenings.

"How do we offer it without breaking people's pockets?" she asks of the quandary many states and localities find themselves in with the new intervention.

But she says the intervention is being discussed, which is important because "we know condom use is down," but that it needs to have more discussion.

At the end of the day, Benton is ready to live her favorite Maya Angelou quote:

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."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MY Consent Day Empowers Michigan Youth, LGBT Survivors Of Assault

BY AJ TRAGER

The Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) will celebrate the launch of Michigan Youth (MY) Consent Day, an awareness campaign seeking to promote positive sexual health practices among Michigan youth.

MY Consent Day will be held for the first time on Sept. 23 and is geared towards empowering youth, especially those attending college, to know their rights, to know how to protect their bodies and to engage in healthy relationships. The event will continue on in future years every fourth Thursday in September.

MOASH has created an awareness campaign to get youth involved in combating sexual assault and features fact sheets, an intervention database, a link to Michigan consent laws as well as event resources and a My Consent Day photo campaign.

Under Michigan State Law, consent is defined as the willful participation in any type of sexual activity without force or coercion.

"Although the law seems clear," says MOASH Executive Director, Shelly Hoffman, "Many youth (as well as adults) misunderstand what constitutes 'willful' consent and, more importantly, what constitutes non consent. MY Consent Day will not only raise awareness of this important topic, it will serve as an important education tool, and MOASH is excited to bring this first-of-its-kind event to Michigan."

According to national statistics, at least 4 percent of men, 25 percent of women and 40 percent of LGBT students will experience a sexual assault during their time as a university student. The 2012 FBI Crime Report showed Michigan as having the third largest reported instances per 100 thousand people. However, even with that statistic, coming forward about a sexual abuse is never easy and many who face this challenge have multiple fears to overcome before sharing their experiences.

> Sexual assault and intimate partner violence affects all persons, regardless of gender or sexual orientation and isn't something that can be attributed to a "healthy relationship" or an "unhealthy relationship."

"Given the recent data released about the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses, it is important MOASH not only give voice to this issue, but to present useful information to aid in the reduction of these numbers," Hoffman said. "The MY Consent Day website offers several resources and useful information to combat sexual violence on campuses and elsewhere."

Sexual assault and intimate partner violence affects all persons, regardless of gender or sexual orientation and isn't something that can be attributed to a "healthy relationship" or an "unhealthy relationship." Abuse can come from anyone, especially from those that are trusted. For many survivors, telling someone, utilizing services or reporting the incident(s) is the hardest part.

Some common fears, documented by Dartmouth University's Sexual Abuse Awareness group, include: having to disclose sexual orientation or gender identity to the medical professional, being outed without consent when seeking services, seeking services from professionals who may be insensitive or homophobic, being perceived as the perpetrator, being perceived as weak, not having the assault/abuse labeled a certain way, being blamed for the assault and being ostracized by the LGBT community for reporting the perpetrator if he or she is also a member of the LGBT community.

Individuals who seek help for their experience with sexual violence are not required to disclose sexual orientation to anyone (even in the emergency room). As Michigan's Elliot-Larsen Act has yet to be amended to include gender and sexual orientation among the list of protected classifications of discrimination, the LGBT community has a right to receive care for any injury but lacks certain protections in the medical setting.

Online resources for the LGBT community that aid in the healing process, as well as help with outreach and connecting with government officials, are available at www.dartmouth.edu/sexualabuse/help/lgbtqsurvivors.html. For more information on MOASH, visit their website at www.moash.org and check out the event website at www.facebook.com/MYConsentDay.

► GAGG

Continued from p. 5

Voters, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, the Michigan Education Association and the Gill Action fund, which has donated to nationally known candidates such as Charlie Crist, a Democratic candidate running for Governor in Florida, and Democratic candidate Felecia Rotellini running for Arizona Attorney General.

With the national spotlight paying attention to Michigan's 98th House District race, the heat is up for Michigan voters to pitch in and support their preferred House candidate. Recent poll results show that, despite being a typically safe Republican district, the race looks to be a virtual tie.

"She is getting national attention and the House Caucus is realizing that this is about beating Gary Glenn and winning in that district," said Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT&A Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party.

The LGBT&A Caucus launched the GAGG campaign in efforts to keep what LaChey describes as a "homophobic" candidate out of the Michigan House of Representatives.

"Joan Brausch is a seasoned campaigner with a pro-equality stance on issues of importance to Michigan's LGBT community. She is fighting every day on the campaign trail to become the next state rep from the 98th House District. By contrast, her homophobic opponent Gary Glenn has a proven track record over decades of having opinions and taking actions, which are directly counter to our community. He must not be allowed to gain a seat in the MI House," LaChey said.

To donate to Brausch's campaign, get involved or learn more about her, go to www.brauschforhouse.com.

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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A group called Noah's Angels is spending big bucks to provide dolphins with bodysuits to stop gay activity among this frisky, highly sexually active species. (Dolphins are one of 450 animal groping, er, groupings known to enjoy same-sex cavorting.)

The bodysuits, costing $250 each, emit electric shocks when touching occurs between similarly outfitted dolphins.

Bodysuits are color coded to show preferred activity as observed by Noah's Angels swim-along, camera-recording evangelists. (Blue: likes to rub; Red, likes to probe; Yellow, goes belly to belly; Green, indulges in beak/genital propulsion; Grey, Ex-Gay dolphin.)

The NA project was first tried on flamingos, a breed known to be fond of same-sex pairing. However, the NAA teams had onset problems because the birds began exhibiting courtship behavior toward three of the group's thinner men, who fled into the marshes for safety, preserving their own vestigial virginity and prayer.

If the NA project works, bodysuits will next be provided to giraffes. It's felt that this will curtail "necking," which not infrequently can last for hours "with as many as five giraffes observed rubbing away" and "repeated mountings that just look missionary position funny." (NA pamphlet, "Saving Animals from Sin: Making Our American Zoos Safe for T-Party Democracy.")

Because female giraffes do not "neck" – they do however bond – they will not be body suited, saving the NA project needed financial resources for "priestly look-alike penguin communities, much more in need of monitoring of spiritual issues of decorum and good taste."

("Body suiting involves measuring, color coordinating, hand stitching, pinning and padding, huffing and puffing, selecting appropriate Bible verses to add as aesthetic admonitions. Much also depends upon whether a female is a so-called soft or 'stone butch.'" NA admits that the latter determination, while spiritually important to determine, is time consuming.)

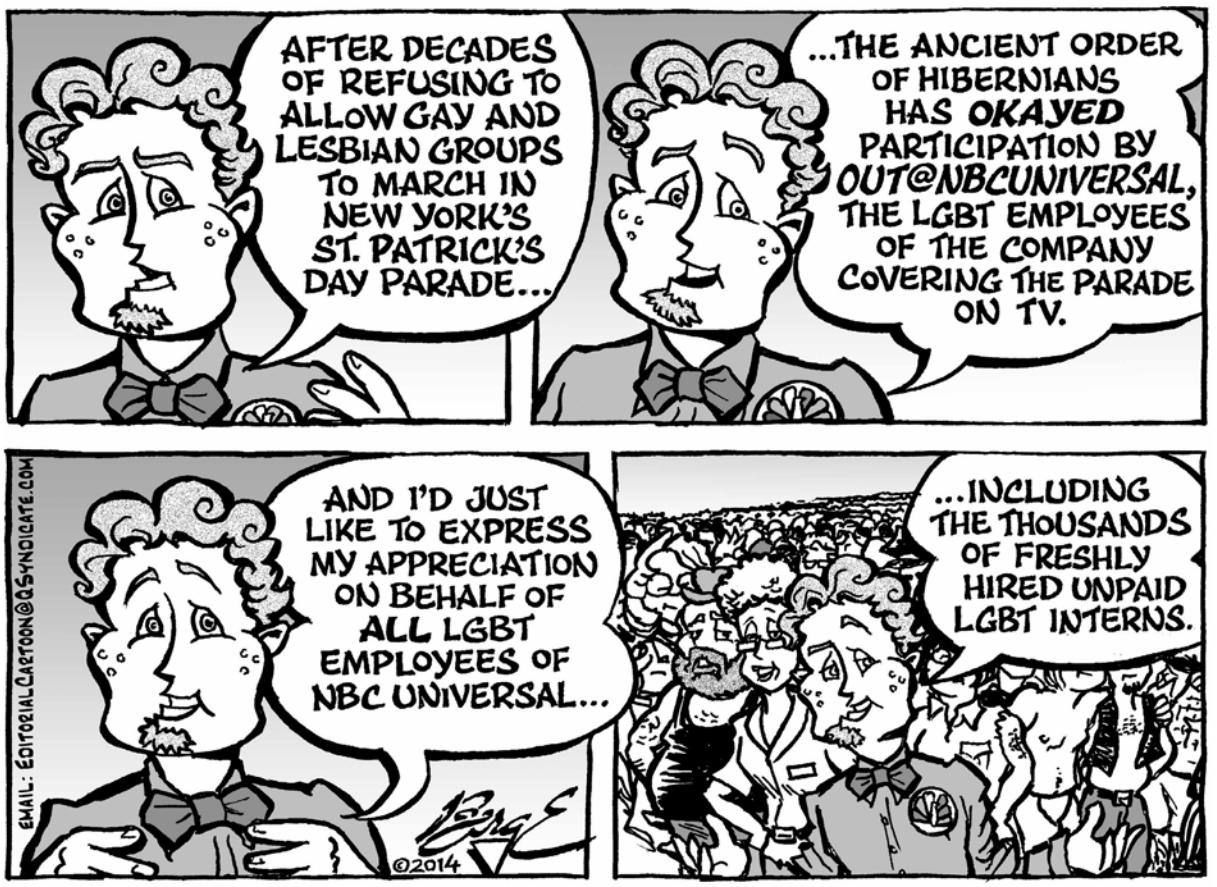
Dr. Quinine Curbsitter, NA spokesperson, warns that "such same-sex carryings on in the animal kingdom are not necessarily biological error, because free choice is not an issue. As animal husbandry specialists stress, that distinction is reserved only for Homo Erectus Gay Lesbius in metropolitan settings. Animals copulate by smell. Gays, by cologne."

Continues Dr. Curbsitter, "It's important to make the animal kingdom free of any same-sex activity that might set bad examples for families who see animals in zoos, circuses, aquariums, aquatic shows and Pentecostal snake-handling church socials. It's just not American to feed peanuts to a gay elephant – even if he, she or it is a Republican – is it?"

Predictably, animal rights activists are protesting the whole costly NA project, arguing that dolphins exhibit loyalty to same-sex partners and often spend a lifetime in committed relationships. (The less said about bonobo chimps, the better.)

Unfortunately, if Noah's Angels go global in missionary zeal, no penguin, chimp, skunk, prairie dog, hedgehog, gerbil or non-spawning trout will be safe.

Pray for 40 days of torrential rain. And for heaven's sake, neuter all gender-suspect, foul-mouthed parrots.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Transmissions

School Days

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Summer is quickly turning to autumn, and the only proof of this beyond the local coffee shop pulling out their pumpkin spice is the doors of all the local schools being opened.

In California, this means the start of the first full year under AB 1266. The bill, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in August of 2013, went into effect at the first of this year. Far right groups like the Pacific Justice Institute have tried to stop it with an unsuccessful repeal effort and - to date - no effective legal challenges. They even attempted to fabricate stories of harassment in order to scare people into supporting their efforts, which have failed.

AB 1266 requires schools to make sure that students are allowed to fully participate in their schools. They are given equal access to all activities, events, sports teams and, yes, facilities such as restrooms and changing stalls.

The latter, of course, is what the opposition latched onto. Once again we saw the "bathroom meme" of predatory youth using this law to gain access to opposite gender facilities for nefarious purposes. Such an incident has yet to ever be recorded.

While California is the first state to pass such a bill, it is worth noting that Colorado and Massachusetts have similar policies. It was also already in practice in many school districts in California before the bill was ever passed.

While this is the law in California, and accepted in other states, it also is in line with policy nationwide: the United States Department of Education recently clarified protections against sex discrimination under Title IX. This clarification extended Title IX rights to transgender students nationwide.

Yet, every year we see more and more tales of transgender people denied the chance of being prom or homecoming queens and others barred from events and yearbooks over appearance, among other issues faced by transgender students.

The United States Department of Education recently clarified protections against sex discrimination under Title IX. This clarification extended Title IX rights to transgender students nationwide.

Most recently, it is the story of Rachel Pepe, a 13-year-old in New Jersey. Pepe initially attended Thorne Middle School in the gender she was assigned at birth. Her mother informed the school that her child would be returning as Rachel; the school reportedly told her that she would not be allowed back to school as Rachel. More than this, the school also told her they would not even attempt to find her an alternative school of any sort.

She would simply have to return as a male student, act as

See School Days, next page

► **Political Hors D'oeuvre**
Continued from p. 6

About That 2013 HIV Report From MDCH…

Recently, Between The Lines broke down the new 2013 report on HIV in the state of Michigan. One of the things that stuck out was the fact that 31 percent of the new infections had no known risk. Reading the report, one of the definitions was phrased:

"Undetermined males and females with no identified risk. Males whose only documented risk is sex with a female, and their female partner's risk and HIV status is unknown (note: these males meet the definition of heterosexual contact w/ female (HCF) in the exposure categories, but they remain 'undetermined' risk in the transmission categories)."

Statewide, 16 percent of male cases are "undetermined" risk. We asked MDCH to explain this, and here's what Angela Minicuci, spokesperson for the department, had to say:

"Per the CDC, males must have female partners with known risks in order to be classified as heterosexual (i.e., females known to be infected or at high risk for HIV) for risk transmission categories. If the female partner does not meet these criteria, there is not much known about the likely transmission of HIV to males except that they had sex with a female of no known risk," Minicuci explained in an email. "Since we cannot report them as heterosexual risk, we also provide Exposure categories for which heterosexual contact for males is defined as males who have had sex with a female, regardless of what is known about the female's HIV status or behaviors."

Of course, this raises the question: if 16 percent of the cases of male infections are undetermined – meaning they likely fit the heterosexual contact with a female – why are they not directly identified as so? Also, note that it is referred to as "men who have sex with men" as compared to "heterosexual contact." Doesn't this pathologize and "other" queer sex, while normalizing straight sex and creating an illusion that straight men don't get HIV?

Baird To The Bone

Richard Baird, a top advisor to Gov. Rick Snyder, is tossing his weight around the capitol these days. Baird, who was at the center of a property tax and voting scandal just before the GOP's Aug. 23 convention, has taken to threatening some of his opposition.

Democrats in August revealed Baird had illegally been benefiting from homestead property tax exemptions in two states – Illinois and Michigan. Democrats also raised concerns that Baird remained on the voter rolls in Illinois, as well as being on the Michigan voter rolls. To his credit, Baird admitted there was a screw up related to his Bath Township home, and the county clerk came out supporting his claims. Baird then cut a check for over $16,000 to cover the back taxes and interest on his Michigan home. To address the voter issue, Baird sent a letter to Illnois election officials declaring he was no longer voting in the state, asking them to remove his registration.

Democrats and union activists aren't letting Baird off so easy. Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) called Baird a "crook" on WKAR's Off the Record, and Carla Swift, president of the AFL-CIO, published an editorial calling the gubernatorial aide out. Baird's response was to threaten to sue both women. In Swift's case, he left a voicemail for her. In Whitmer's case, he used his government email address to reach out to Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) for contact information for Whitmer.

One would think a government employee caught in a scandal running a secret group to gut Michigan's education system would know to use a non-publicly funded email address. He did that with the skunk works scandal while working in the governor's office, but being paid by the now defunct NERD Fund. The NERD Fund was Snyder's secretive nonprofit that was the center of a controversy last year. Snyder shut the fund down and put Baird on the government payroll for $140,000 a year. That was a $40,000 pay raise over what he was getting from the NERD Fund.

On her part, Whitmer is daring Baird to sue.

Follow this series online at www.pridesource.com for regular updates.

► **School Days**
Continued from p. 10

a male student and use her birth name in order to attend classes. According to the school, they were simply not equipped to handle a transgender student.

School officials told Pepe's mother, Angela Peters, that the school could not call her Rachel because it was not the name on her birth certificate. They also told her that the standardized tests used by the school require the "legal name and gender" of the student.

The school even went so far as to claim that they could not let Rachel attend as a girl because it would "upset the boy-girl ratio in the school."

There does not seem to be any legal basis to these arbitrary rules. Schools are not required to use the name on a birth certificate and routinely use nicknames and other alternatives. Likewise, standardized tests do not require a specific gender be expressed by the test-taker. I don't even think I need to touch the ludicrous issue of the "boy-girl ratio" at the school.

Thankfully, the story does not end here.

After Pepe and her mother went public with her story - and several LGBT rights organizations got involved - Middletown Township Public Schools Superintendent William O. George determined that he could and would work with his staff to accommodate Pepe, and staff will undergo "sensitivity training."

Now there's no question that this situation ran afoul of Title IX. It also did not square up against New Jersey's own laws around discrimination. Yet, if Pepe's mother had not spoken up on her behalf, this school could well have illegally denied Pepe her education.

Even with these laws in place, it is our vulnerable youth who may bare the brunt of clueless and/or malicious school officials. We may see cases similar to hers, or other rights violations by schools unaware or uncaring about the law. Even in California under AB 1266, it's quite likely that the Pacific Justice Institute and their ilk will try to force a "legal challenge" in a more conservative school district.

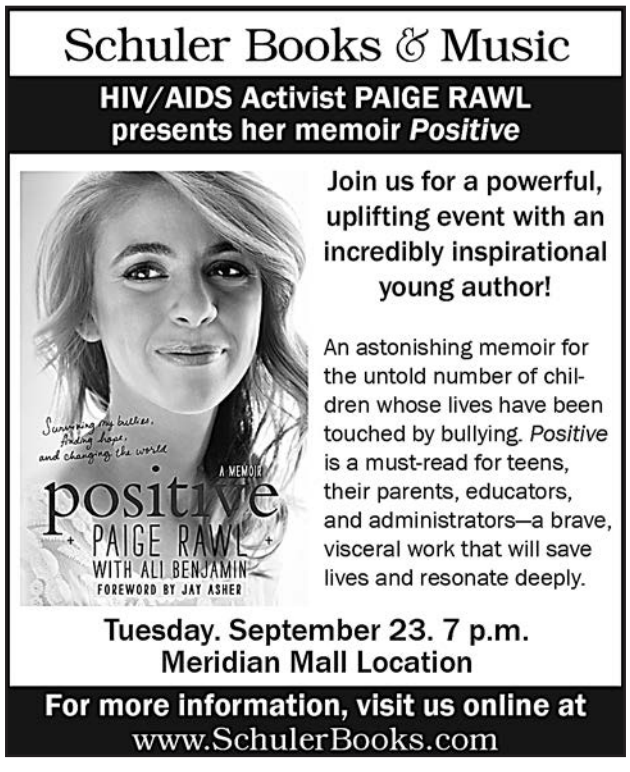
With the new school year starting, I hope that transgender students and their supportive families will be willing to speak out when they see their rights under attack. While I don't want to play into the hands of groups like the PJI, it seems more important than ever to speak out when you see your rights under attack.

Over the last decades, the transgender community has grown younger and younger. When I was first coming out, most of my transgender contemporaries were coming out in their 30s and 40s. This has changed dramatically, and the schools are our new battlefield.

We need to make sure that our trans siblings are able to gain a fair shake in schools, even with laws in place to protect them. We need to see them flourish.

So here's to the new school year, in a world where our students do have rights. Let's make sure they remain.

Gwen Smith has never been able to get her High School to change her records. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.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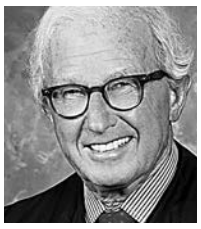
Creep of the Week

Martin Feldman

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It's hard to be all alone. To find the courage to break away from the pack. To be a nonconformist. To be the cheese that stands alone.

And so you've got to applaud U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman for handing down his brave decision upholding Louisiana's anti-gay marriage ban as constitutional. If being wrong is wrong, Feldman doesn't want to be right. And to that I say, "Brav-the-fuck-o."



Martin Feldman

And I know what you're thinking: "D'Anne, just because you don't agree with his decision doesn't mean he's a Creep. People are entitled to their own opinions!"

To which I say, "Shut up. This is my column."

But to which I also say, "Don't forget that opinions are like assholes: everybody is one, at least sometimes."

And this is one of those times for Feldman.

It has been shown over and over again in courts across the country that there is no rational basis for banning marriage between two people of the same sex. Judge after judge has smacked down the arguments of those opposed to equality. The bans are based on and do nothing but uphold prejudice against gays and lesbians. Period. When people voted for these bans, most of them did so because they thought gays were weird or icky and that somehow marriage and society would be forever destroyed if two ladies said "I do."

> When people voted for these bans, most of them did so because they thought gays were weird or icky ...

Fast forward a number of years. It's clear that marriage equality is not bringing about the End Times and more and more people realize that, hey, gays and lesbians aren't this terrifying menace and are, in fact, people I know in my family, on my bowling team or in my department at work. BFD.

Feldman is not one of those people. And his ruling is clearly rooted in a lack of understanding that gays and lesbians are, in fact, people, and discrimination against them should not be A-OK.

For one thing, he refers to being gay or lesbian as a "lifestyle" choice, which indicates that he thinks that homos could just as well "choose" to un-gay themselves but don't because they like being difficult. Granted, he calls it a "personal, genuine, and sincere" choice, which is so kind and generous of him (i.e. condescending as hell).

To that end, Feldman writes in his decision, "Many states have democratically chosen to recognize same-sex marriage. But until recent years, it had no place at all in this nation's history and tradition. Public attitude might be becoming more diverse, but any right to same-sex marriage is not yet so entrenched as to be fundamental."

Which basically means, "Some people still think gay marriage is icky, so what are you gonna do but keep it banned, amirite?"

I would argue that he is not "right." But he would argue that judges who have ruled against anti-gay marriage bans are just a bunch of softies who need to grow a pair.

"The federal court decisions thus far exemplify a pageant of empathy; decisions impelled by a response of innate pathos," he writes.

In other words, "What a bunch of sissies. All of those judges are just gay for gays. Me, Feldman, is the real deal" (pounds chest).

The grossest part of Feldman's decision is the fact that he compares same-sex marriage to incest.

"[M]ust the states permit or recognize a marriage between an aunt and niece? Aunt and nephew? Brother/brother? Father and child?" he writes. "All such unions would undeniably be equally committed to love and caring for one another, just like the plaintiffs."

To which I say, "Nope." That's an opinion coming from a place of fear and ignorance, not a place of reason and logic. Ain't nobody got time for that.

Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada Gay Marriage Laws In Court

BY PAUL ELIAS

> Supporters of the bans in the three states before the 9th Circuit argue that state governments have an interest in promoting marriage between a man and a woman, which they say is optimal for childrearing. Opponents say there is no data supporting the childrearing contention and they argue that the marriage prohibitions are unconstitutional violations of equal protection rights.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - For the first time since it declared California's gay marriage ban unconstitutional, the federal appeals court in San Francisco is readying to hear arguments over same-sex weddings in a political and legal climate that's vastly different than when it overturned Proposition 8 in 2012.

State and federal court judges have been striking down bans in more than a dozen states at a rapid rate since a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year.

Now, three judges on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals - all appointed by Democrats and one of whom wrote the opinion overturning Proposition 8 - are set to hear arguments Monday on gay marriage bans in Idaho, Nevada and Hawaii.

"It seemed like such an uphill battle when I started," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "I really couldn't imagine then that we would be where we are now."

Minter has been fighting for gay marriage for 21 years, was instrumental in challenging bans in California and Utah and is representing gay couples seeking to overturn Idaho's prohibition.

The 9th Circuit in 2012 invalidated Proposition 8 because it singled out a minority group for disparate treatment for no compelling reason. The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the case last year without ruling on the legal merits of gay marriage.

The numerous gay marriage rulings in recent months, including one by the federal appeals court in Chicago rejecting bans in Wisconsin and Indiana and another by a federal judge affirming Louisiana's law, have raised the pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court to decide the issue. Last week, 15 states that allow gay marriage and 17 that don't asked the high court to weigh in.

The Mormon church and four religious organizations has also asked the Supreme Court to intervene.

"Until all 50 states get on board, it's a legal battle from state to state," said Tara Newberry, one of the plaintiffs in the Nevada case, who wants to marry her longtime partner. "The map is changing. But until the Supreme Court of the United States makes the determination, it's state-by-state."

The pro-gay marriage rulings have used the rationale Supreme Court used in June 2013 when it invalidated the core of the Defense of Marriage Act that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman for determining federal benefits. That ruling didn't directly address whether states can impose bans and led to an explosion of litigation.

Nineteen states and Washington, D.C., now allow gay marriages.

Supporters of the bans in the three states before the 9th Circuit argue that state governments have an interest in promoting marriage between a man and a woman, which they say is optimal for childrearing. Opponents say there is no data supporting the childrearing contention and they argue that the marriage prohibitions are unconstitutional violations of equal protection rights.

The 9th Circuit panel has allotted a combined two hours for three sets of arguments Monday. The court is expecting a big turnout and is limiting public seating in the courtroom through a lottery. The court will also stream the two hours of arguments live online.

The case for gay marriage was bolstered when the court earlier this week unveiled the names of the three judges assigned to decide the issue in those three states.

Judges Marsha Berzon and Ronald Gould were appointed by President Bill Clinton. And Judge Stephen Reinhardt, appointed by President Jimmy Carter, is considered one of the most politically liberal jurists on the 29-judge court.

Reinhardt wrote the 2012 opinion striking down California's gay marriage ban. He also wrote an opinion in January that declared gays and lesbians a "protected class" and extended to them the same civil right protections against discrimination that the U.S. Supreme Court has previously promised only women and racial minorities.

Reinhardt, writing for the unanimous three-judge panel that also included Berzon, held that striking someone from a jury pool because he or she is gay constitutes unlawful discrimination.

Less than a month after Reinhardt's gay juror ruling on Jan. 21, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, a Republican seeking re-election this year, said the state would no longer fight a lawsuit seeking to invalidate Nevada's gay marriage band. Sandoval said that "it has become clear that this case is no longer defensible in court."

Nevada's defense of the ban has been taken up by a private organization called the Coalition for the Protection of Marriage. The coalition's attorney Monte Stewart declined comment.

In the Idaho case, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter is appealing a lower court decision tossing out that state's gay marriage ban. Otter says the majority of Idaho residents support the ban and that the U.S. Supreme Court will make the final decision.

In Hawaii, attorneys representing the Hawaii Family Forum, which opposes gay marriage, are asking the court to keep alive the forum's legal case even though state lawmakers legalized same-sex marriage in December.

The 9th Circuit panel is under no deadline to rule.

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7th Circuit Strikes Down Gay Marriage Bans

BY BTL STAFF

CHICAGO - The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down same-sex marriage bans Sept. 4 for Wisconsin and Indiana, upholding lower court decisions that the ban on marriage is a violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

"Today's sharp and scathing ruling demolishes the arguments and unsubstantiated claims made by opponents of the freedom to marry, repeated in the outlier decision out of Louisiana yesterday, and affirms what nearly 40 other federal and state courts have found: the denial of the freedom to marry inflicts real harms and is constitutionally indefensible," President of Freedom to Marry, Evan Wolfson said in a statement following the decision. "Judge Posner's authoritative opinion points the way, and the Supreme Court should move swiftly now to end marriage discrimination nationwide, without prolonging the harms and indignity that too many couples continue to endure in too much of the country."

A gay couple getting married on the steps of the City County Building after a judge struck down Wisconsin's gay marriage ban on June 6 in Madison, WI. Photo Shutterstock

Three cases were before the court from Indiana, Baskin v Bogan, Fuji v Governor and Lee v Abbott with one case from Wisconsin, Wolf v Walkner. Nine days after hearing arguments in the case, the federal court made its decision.

Judge Richard A. Posner, a Reagan appointee, wrote for the three-judge panel including Judge Ann Claire Williams, a Clinton appointee, and Judge David Hamilton, an Obama appointee.

"[M]ore than unsupported conjecture that same-sex marriage will harm heterosexual marriage or children or any other valid and important interest of a state is necessary to justify discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," Posner wrote. "As we have been at pains to explain, the grounds advanced by Indiana and Wisconsin for their discriminatory policies are not only conjectural; they are totally implausible."

The 7th Circuit Court is the third Court of Appeals to rule against same-sex marriage bans within the state constitutions joining the 10th Circuit Court, which struck down bans in Oklahoma and Utah and the 4th Circuit Court which struck down bans in Virginia. Both Circuit Court decisions have been stayed pending action by the Supreme Court.

Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee residents are all awaiting a decision to be made in the 6th Circuit Court which heard arguments on Aug. 6.

Walker v Wolf was represented by attorneys James Esseks of the ACLU, John Knight of the ACLU LGBT Project, Larry Dupuis of the ACLU of Wisconsin and Hans J. Germann, Gretchen E. Helfrich and Frank Dickerson from the Mayer Brown law firm.

Kenneth Falk, legal director of the ACLU of Indiana, and Camilla Taylor, the marriage project coordinator at Lambda Legal argued for the plaintiffs in the Indiana cases.

"Today we join same-sex couples, their families and our allies across the country in celebrating this victory," said John Knight, senior staff attorney at the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. "Every loving and committed couple in the U.S. should have the freedom to marry, protect their loved ones and have their commitment honored by our legal system. We celebrate and tomorrow we continue the fight to make marriage equality the law of the land, not just in certain states."

U.S. Rep. from Wisconsin, Mark Pocan, the co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus said that the decision puts Wisconsin back on track towards ensuring full equality for ever American and making it clear that discriminatory laws that treat LGBT couples as second-class citizens will not stand in a court of law.

"I urge Governor Scott Walker and Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen to respect the Court's ruling and the spirit of the U.S. Constitution," continued Rep. Pocan. "In ruling after ruling, it has become unmistakable that the promise of America is everyone should be treated equally and with dignity. Today's ruling brings us one step closer to fulfilling that promise."

State officials from Wisconsin and Indiana immediately stated that they would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

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Photo: Sony Classics

'Love Is Strange' Actor On His 'Defiance Of Prejudice' & Humanizing Gay Rights

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

There's a beautiful moment in Ira Sachs' indie hit "Love Is Strange" involving two older men – a New York couple, forced to live apart after one of them loses his job, tearfully embraces. Life-changing? No. But that's the point: Its simplicity is a revelation.

That distinctly post-gay perspective is what attracted John Lithgow to the role of Uncle Ben, an elderly artist adjusting to life away from his husband, George (Alfred Molina), after financial woes drive them into separate residences.

During a recent chat with Lithgow, the actor discussed being touched by the gay community's response to "Love Is Strange," the underrepresentation of LGBT people in film, and his groundbreaking turn as a trans woman alongside Robin Williams in "The World According to Garp."

"Love Is Strange" is resonating with the gay community on a very personal level, especially now that many of these longtime gay and lesbian couples are able to wed. For you, what does it mean to be part of a film that means so much to the gay community?

It's *extremely* moving to me. Even if the whole same-sex marriage issue had not become such a major issue of our times, this would still be a very, very moving film just by virtue of the fact that it is a portrait of a 40-year-long relationship. And since it's a 40-year-long relationship between two gay men, there is such a history there: They've been through 40 extraordinary years; they've seen the terrible scourge of AIDS in the '80s and '90s; between them they've lost scours, if not 100s, of friends; they've somehow survived, and they have seen the sort of awakenings of freedom – this slow emergence from second-class citizenship through these gay marriage initiatives. The great thing is, it puts a human face on it. You see real people. These are the people who are really directly affected by it, and I just find it terribly moving.

The narrative hones in on these vignettes of their life together, which says a lot about relationships – that, no matter who's experiencing it, love is love...

... and it's complicated and it's messy, but they are the luckiest people in the film because their relationship has survived and they're inseparable. They're so essential to each other.

Is there a particular exchange between Ben and George that left an impression on you?

Oh, there are so many of them! I think the finest scene is right toward the end: the scene in Julius bar, followed by their walk through the streets of the West Village. It's the moment when Ben apologizes to George for being less monogamous and less faithful, and yet reassures him and acknowledges the fact that they are essential to each other. I think that's a wonderful scene, and I love the fact that that scene itself is shot with humor – there are two moments in that scene where they laugh uncontrollably. The way it swings back and forth between the serious and the silly just seems to define their relationship in so many ways. And, as they salute their old friend Frank – it's quite clear what happened to Frank – that scene is also acknowledging the loss they feel because of AIDS.

INFO

Love Is Strange

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4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Township
themapletheater.com

You and Alfred have such a rapport – not just in the film, but in real life. You've been friends for years. But besides the obvious answer – that it's called acting – how do you take that platonic affection for each other to the next level?

It's impossible to be self-conscious with Alfred. Both of us have done a lot of acting, and so it takes an awful lot to throw us. But it's very rare that you find an actor that you feel so completely free with, so unself-conscious with, and both of us share a certain quality as actors. We're both very serious actors who are also very frivolous people. (Laughs) We love to laugh, and yet we take acting very seriously – that gives you a lot of reference points in playing a love relationship. You can't have a relationship of 40 years without having both a sense of humor and a sense of compassion and forgiveness.

It's refreshing to see an elderly gay couple portrayed on screen. In Hollywood, there aren't many stories about older people being told, let alone older *gay* people.

Yes – they're not very well served in this very youthful industry.

What's your take on the representation of LGBT characters in film?

They're underrepresented, and to the extent that they are represented – I mean, there have been important and fine films on gay themes. *Many!* "Longtime Companion," "Milk," "Philadelphia" and "Prick Up Your Ears." But so many of them have been shot through with torment and crisis. "Milk" is about an assassination, "Philadelphia" is about death by AIDS, "Prick Up Your Ears" is about a crime of passion between two gay men. This one is exactly the opposite. It is so prosaic. What's extraordinary and revolutionary about the film is how ordinary it is. It goes beyond acceptance of a gay lifestyle right on to taking it for granted.

You know, there are different gradations – there is prejudice, and then there's tolerance, and then there's acceptance, but the best of all is simply taking something for granted as if there's nothing unusual about it. That's what's revolutionary about this film. That's exactly how this relationship is viewed, and I think it's a sign of the times that this is actually happening. I'm not saying the battle is won by any means, but it's getting harder and harder to be bigoted about homosexuality, and that's extremely good news.

And the film acknowledges that.

Yeah – that heartbreaking moment when Joey (Ben's teenage great-nephew) uses the word "gay" in such a derogatory way is just heartbreaking, and yet you know that things are changing and changing for the better.

There's still a battle to be fought, and that's demonstrated in the film when George loses his job as a longtime Catholic school music teacher because he marries Ben.

And yet, even in that moment you can tell – because of a beautiful little performance by John Cullum as the priest – he doesn't want to be doing this. He hates to do this. By that very fact you get the sense that this can't stand 10 years from now. People are not gonna be fired by the Catholic Church for having a gay lifestyle. So, I think it's a hopeful film.

I do hope that's the case.

They simply can't keep doing this. They just can't. It's unacceptable.

You received an Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign and also participated in the star-studded reading of Dustin Lance Black's "8," but when did gay issues become important to you?

Much, much earlier than that. I've grown up in a theater family and I've lived my life in the creative arts – half of the people in the creative arts are gay! The arts community is way, way beyond the rest of the society in some degree of acceptance, so I've grown up in an atmosphere of acceptance.

Though there were things about the gay community you apparently didn't know that you learned while shooting "Love Is Strange." I understand Cheyenne Jackson schooled you in gay culture.

Yes! Cheyenne was absolutely an essential consultant. (Laughs)

Having played two queer characters who inhabit very different time periods – Uncle Ben in "Love Is Strange" and, in 1982, transgender woman Roberta Muldoon in "The World According to Garp" – what does it say about the gay community when you look at these roles side by side?

I approached both characters the same way, and that is, loving the people and treating them with great dignity. Roberta is a slightly bizarre character, especially in the context of that film. When I talk about somebody being taken for granted, that is much more true of "Love Is Strange" than of Roberta Muldoon in "The World According to Garp." To that degree, times have changed, but it feels very, very good to have been a part of changing that sensibility just a tiny part perhaps. I love that I have dignified these two characters almost in defiance of prejudice.

You co-starred with Robin Williams in that film...

Yes, rest his soul.

Such a friend to the gay community as well. Do you have a fond memory of Robin you'd like to share?

All my memories of Robin are very, very fond, and I'm still extremely sad about it. The world has lost a lot of laughter.

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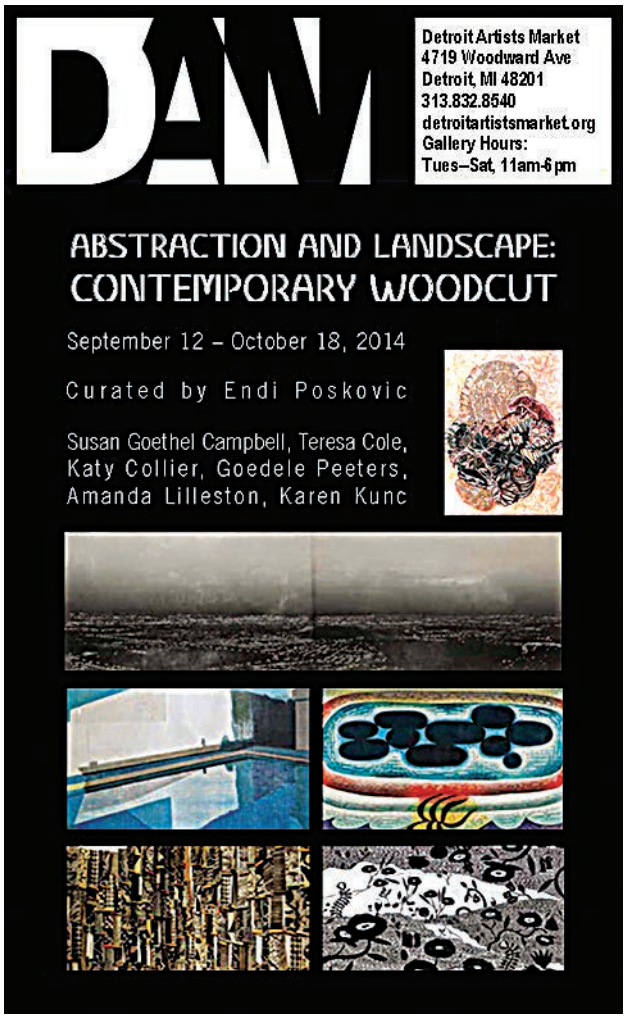

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Ariana Grande, Ryan Adams

Ariana Grande, 'My Everything'

Ariana Grande doesn't wanna be your "next Mariah Carey." Shattering the classic-Carey image she somehow became known for (aside from a honeyed coo here and there, I still don't get the comparison), Grande's likable-if-weightless sophomore album, "My Everything," signals her transition from buzz-worthy Disney wonder to major mainstream mainstay. A sizable entourage of radio fixtures riding shotgun doesn't hurt. With Iggy Azalea, Big Sean and, on the deluxe edition, Nicki Minaj (who, alongside Jessie J, works "Bang Bang" into a bad-girl vocal orgy) helping to turn Grande into a bona fide pop princess, the singer sheds her vanilla wholesomeness – though she knows you love the way she grooves a slowie. The Ryan Tedder-produced power-ballad "Why Try," the piano-led "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart" and the tender title track fill that quota, but the slick bounce bait on "My Everything" aims for mass appeal. Paying tribute to the divas who came before her, a sample of Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out" on "Break Your Heart Back" is as fun as it is unnecessary. It's an issue Grande contends with herself. Having written very little of "My Everything," what exactly does the 21-year-old bring to music besides runs? Not that there's anything wrong with the fluttery "Love Me Harder" or the sprightly "One Last Time" – and the R&B-influenced "Be My Baby" serves '90s Brandy-esque awesomeness – but I still don't know Ariana beyond her better-than-average pipes. She's a product without any character. A ponytail with a voice. *Grade: C+*

Ryan Adams, 'Ryan Adams'

As if he's never felt more like himself, Ryan Adams goes the self-titled route for his 14th solo album. Kicking up the mellowness of his 2011 release "Ashes & Fire," a folksy detour that played it safe, he cuts into the alt-rock edge of his earliest recordings for "Ryan Adams," a galvanized body that finds glorious middle ground between his cornerstones: rock 'n' roll and alt-country. "Gimme Something Good" could start a fire; its electric guitar sizzles burning through an Eagles-inspired sound, it dances in the flames, and then fumes at the chorus – a chorus that'd make for a happy Don Henley. "I Just Might" is a gnarled rocker with more of that late-'80s influence, and on it, Adams sounds invigorated. And with shimmering guitars and an easy-to-like sentiment of perseverance, "Tired of Giving Up" is classic Ryan. Earnestly expressing that he's "tired of fighting" and "I don't understand it all," Adams' blunt sincerity continues to be an endearing quality – it's what makes the guy such a dynamic musical force, too. The middling music on "Ashes & Fire" didn't do much to underpin these heart-sleeved musings, but this time, he's on his game. He's hitting a stride he hasn't hit in years. Every song, from "Gimme Something Good" through the vulnerable heartbreaker "Wrecking Ball" and album coda "Let Go," is first-rate. It's hard not to think that Adams' 15-year solo career was leading up to this – an album so good, so "Ryan Adams," it's no wonder it's named after him. *Grade: A-*

Also Out

Counting Crows, 'Somewhere Under Wonderland'

The casual drawl of Adam Duritz, dreadlocked Counting Crows front man, is so distinct that it's more than a voice – it's the sound of an era. More specifically, the '90s, when the Crows were perched atop the pop-rock zeitgeist. One of the band's strongest outings since their heyday, the nostalgic "Somewhere Under Wonderland" is a Southern-influenced doozy that bursts at the seams of its heart. As the poetically wistful "Possibility Days" closes out "Wonderland," all those emotions you felt the first time you heard "A Long December" resurface like they never even left.

Maroon 5, 'V'

By now, you know what to expect from Adam Levine's band, Maroon 5: trend-grabby pop anthems as infectious as Ebola and as forgettable as... wait, what was I saying? "V" is frustratingly derivative but also more experimental than anything since the band's coastal Cali-rock debut. It's empty-calorie ear candy. But luckily, Levine and co.'s artificiality comes with a few inspired moments, like a pared down piano ballad where Levine and Gwen Stefani deliver heartbroken realness.

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Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Sept. 12

Gay Business Networking (GBN) 8 a.m. Meets monthly to unite LGBT Business owners and professionals and encourage us to support each other by doing business together and referring our friends to members of the networking group. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday Night Wine 6:15 p.m. Gay Professionals Social Group, 417 S. Main St., **Royal Oak.** Meetup.com/Gay-Professionals-Social-Group-MI/events/

Voices 7 p.m. Valet, strolling dinner and cocktails, silent auction, youth performances and music. Tickets: $75-500. Ruth Ellis Center and Lear, 460 W. Baltimore, **Detroit.** Ruthelliscenter.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Breaking the Girls - College sophomores Sara and Alex, roommates who've become intimate, idly joke about killing each other's enemies. But now someone's been murdered. Was one of them taking things too far, or is someone else playing a deadly game with the lovers? Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Saturday, Sept. 13

Art on Tap: Seventh Annual Beer Tasting Event 4 p.m. 21+. Tickets: $30-35. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., **Flint.** 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Harvest of Hope Benefit 6:30 p.m. Biggest fundraiser of the year for Ozone House. Tickets: $150. Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw Ave., **Ann Arbor.** 734-662-2265. Ozonehouse.org/harvest

Sunday, Sept. 14

AIDS Walk Detroit 5k through downtown Royal Oak. AIDS Walk Detroit, 316 E. Eleven Mile Road, **Royal Oak.** 248-399-WALK. ckeyes@aidswalkdetroit.org Aidswalkdetroit.org

Older Lesbians Organizing 1 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net JimToyCenter.org

Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. After the meeting, or anytime on our meeting day, enjoy a Pizza & a beer or any other fine menu items at Shield's Of Troy and help support PFLAG Detroit at the same time. PFLAG Detroit, 3333 Coolidge, **Troy.** Pflagdetroit.org

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

Potluck and Euchre Tournament 6:30 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek.** Battlecreekpride.org

The Reel Thing - Lesbian Movies at the Emagine 7 p.m. Every second Sunday, a LGBT-themed movie will be played. Title not to be revealed until night of each showing! GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak.** Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Monday, Sept. 15

Center Open - Drop In 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

New Member Night 7 p.m. Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. No commitments, just see if we're the right group for you. All are welcome--LGBT & allies. No sight reading skills or audition are required. Out Loud Chorus, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd, **Ann Arbor.** 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com Olconline.org

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Public Issues Forum 7 p.m. This group studies and profiles local and state political issues and candidates. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek.** Battlecreekpride.org

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 8 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-678-2478. CuteSubToy@Yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Best Dressed Celebration 2014 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) to be beneficiary. 18+. Hour Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.**

HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. http://goaffirmations.org/events/event_details. asp?id=430531

Thursday, Sept. 18

The Dog Filmed over the course of a 10-year period by co-directors Allison Berg and Frank Keraudren, and interweaving extraordinary archival footage on the robbery, 70's era interviews and the early gay liberation movement in which "The Dog" played an active role, the documentary captures the many sides of John Wojtowicz's larger-than-life persona: he is, by turns lover, husband, soldier, lover, activist, New Yorker, mama's boy and bank robber. Draft House Films, **Multiple.** Drafthousefilms.com/film/the-dog

Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor.** 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Cocktails by Design 6 p.m. Part of DIFFA. Tickets: $100. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **TBD.**

See Happenings, page 27

Editor's Pick

The annual AIDS Walk Detroit comes to downtown Royal Oak this Sunday. The 5K walk through the city helps raise funds and awareness of the disease.

AIDS Walk Detroit provides financial support for programs in HIV prevention, education and services for HIV-positive individuals. The organization promotes public awareness through events and activities to ensure people living with HIV/AIDS are treated with dignity and respect.

AIDS Walk Detroit will begin at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road. Call 248-399-WALK or visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org for more information.

Ringwald Completes Epic Tale

BY JOHN QUINN

The Great Messenger (Cara Trautman) and The Messenger (Bailey Boudreau) in The Ringwald Theatre's production of Tony Kushner's two-part masterpiece, "Angels in America." Photo: Brandy Joe Plambeck.

The complete title of Tony Kushner's monumental opus is "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes." Did I write "monumental?" It is so big it's split into two plays, each of which runs over three hours. Is it self-indulgent? Yes. Is it bombastic? Yes. Is it utterly compelling drama? You better believe it. "Angels" received the Tony Award for Best Play of 1993 and 1994, plus the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The Ringwald Theatre mounted a remarkable production of "Angels in America, Part One" in February. To open the company's eighth season, that production has been revived, and is joined by "Part Two," subtitled "Perestroika." While the plays are considered to be producible separately, it's tough getting up to speed in "Perestroika" if you don't also catch "Part One: Millennium Approaches." The experience is greater than the sum of its parts.

"Angels in America" follows three intertwined stories. The time is 1985, the place is New York City. Prior Walter (Bailey Boudreau) is increasingly incapacitated by AIDS, and his lover, Louis (Matthew Turner Shelton), eventually abandons him. It would appear that Joe and Harper Pitt (Brenton Herwat and Meredith Deighton) are a straight-laced, Mormon couple, but each hides an inner torment. Joe is sexually in the closet, and Harper has turned to high doses of Valium to relieve her anxieties. The third plot introduces a fictionalized portrayal of the notorious, Communist-baiting attorney Roy Cohn (Dennis Kleinsmith). Obsessed with his alpha-male status, Cohn conceals his homosexuality and his HIV-positive status.

"Perestroika" begins as Louis begins seducing a reluctant Joe. They had an unlikely acquaintance from work – the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, no less – but an encounter cruising Central Park leads them to Louis' apartment. Meanwhile, Joe's mother, Hannah (Jamie Warrow), alarmed by Joe's coming out, flies to New York to find both son and daughter-in-law AWOL. Harper's hold on reality is fragmenting.

Prior is also losing touch with reality. An angel (Cara Trautman) has appeared unto him, named him a prophet, and declares that God has abandoned the world because of "migration." Cohn's health has deteriorated and he checks into the hospital, only to find that his nurse is the ex-drag queen, "Belize" (Chris Jakob). Wouldn't you know – Belize just happens to be Prior's BFF.

Does this all sound unbelievable, in an over-the-top, soap opera-ish sort of way? That's the intent.

"Angels in America" is epic theater in classic Brechtian tradition. Kushner is less interested in his plot than in its messages. He sums up the whole enchilada by a single line in the epilogue: "The world only spins forward." It should come as no surprise that a self-described socialist would explore themes like conservatism versus progressivism and cast the likes of Roy Cohn and Ronald Reagan as the bad guys. That being said, the strength of his script is in its poetry, wondrous symmetry and acknowledgement that there are, after all, shades of grey. As director, Jaimie Warrow admirably carries out the playwright's vision, ably assisted by both cast and crew.

"Angels in America" invites us to compare and contrast. Bailey Boudreau strikingly marks Prior's passage from hollow-eyed madman to resolute crusader in parallel with Matthew Turner Shelton's equally well-limned transformation of Louis from callous cad to enlightened sympathizer. Nicely on point are Brenton Herwat and Meredith Deighton, as each explores his and her characters' flawed attempts to reconcile their emotional conflicts. Kushner's depiction of Cohn brings to mind Shakespeare's Shylock, another power-mad Jew. Both playwrights transcend stereotype to produce rounded characters that are at once both sympathetic and repellant. Dennis Kleinsmith's performance embodies that contrast.

As noted above, epic playwrights enjoy showing their audiences "how the sausage is made," reminding us that this is only a play. As of opening night, the scene changes (and there are a LOT of 'em!) are only running semi-smoothly, not through any fault of stage manager Sean McClellan, but because dim lighting hampers the effort. As dramatic as this work is, it's entirely consistent with its genre to – ahem – "lighten up."

Let's raise the question of relevance. Is "Angels in America" a period piece, given that anti-viral therapies have turned HIV from a death sentence to a manageable infection? Is its message of "healthcare inequality" blunted by the Affordable Care Act?

It's a tough call. Prior's stirring call for progress may not rally a generation that's a generation removed from the onset of the disease. But, in "Angels" context, Roy Cohn's evil is not his despicable career, but his unwillingness to publicly acknowledge his HIV status. That problem, I fear, remains with us.

INFO

Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika

The Ringwald Theatre
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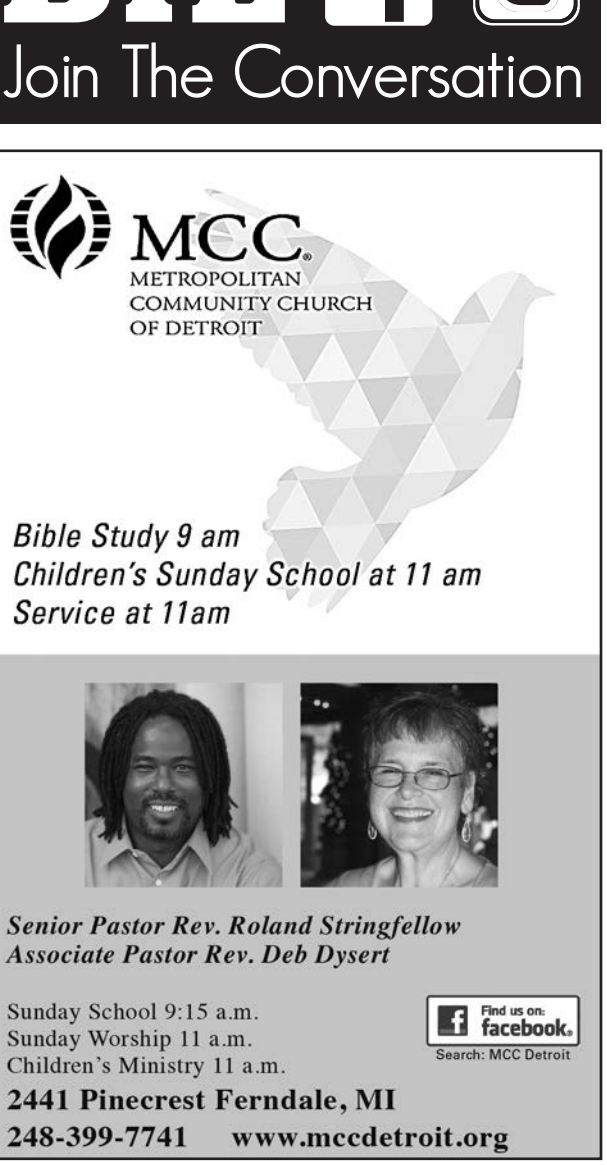

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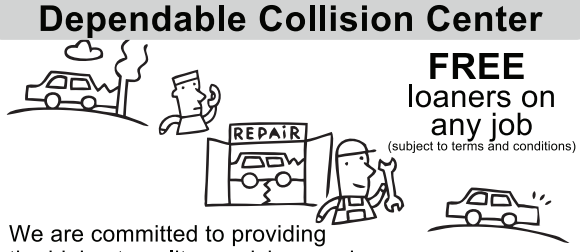

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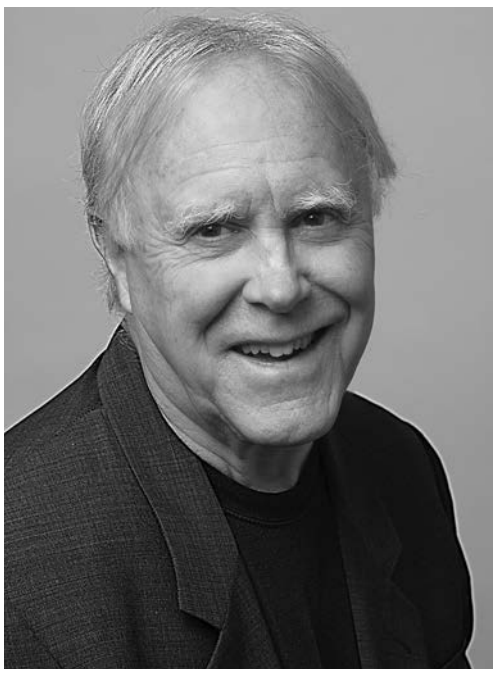

Left: Robert Hass. Photo: Shoey Sindel. Right: Brenda Hillmann. Photo: Brett Hall Jones

Ecopoetry Greens Ann Arbor Garden

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Ann Arbor is about to get a lesson in "ecopoetry."

One Pause Poetry and White Lotus Farms present "Art in the Garden: Ecopoetics," which will feature the talents of Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman.

For those scratching their heads at the term "ecopoetry": The ecopoetry movement searches for ways to use language to better appreciate and understand the interconnectedness of human, animal, mind, matter and nature—language not as an object, but as a motion.

Robert Hass has worked in the movement with his books of poetry including "The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems," "Time and Materials," "Sun Under Wood: New Poems," "Human Wishes," "Praise" and "Field Guide." He's also co-translated volumes of poetry with Czeslaw Milosz. Hass' illustrious trophy shelf includes winning a Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and serving as US Poet Laureate and MacArthur Fellow in the past.

Brenda Hillman, another poet active in the movement, holds many awards for her work as well, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation and the Poetry Society of America in addition to a Pushcart Prize and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award. She holds the Olivia Filippi Chair in Poetry at St. Mary's College, in Moraga, Calif. She's also written nine books of poetry, including "Practical Water," "Bright Existence," "Cascadia" and "Loose Sugar."

White Lotus Farms brings farm-fresh produce to the Ann Arbor community "in an environment of beauty and mindfulness." They use all organic methods and strive to move beyond organic by incorporating sustainable farming practices that respect the natural ecology, their customers and the community.

One Pause Poetry and its programs are sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ann Arbor Area Arts Alliance.

Another One Pause Poetry event will occur tomorrow at 7 p.m., featuring poetry readings from C.D. Wright and Forrest Gander.

Both events at White Lotus Farms are free and open to the public, with receptions and book-signings following the readings.

The One Pause Poetry event will run from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 26 in the gardens of White Lotus Farms. The farms are located at 7217 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-707-1284 or visit www.onepausepoetry.org.

For more information on Ann Arbor events, visit BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.

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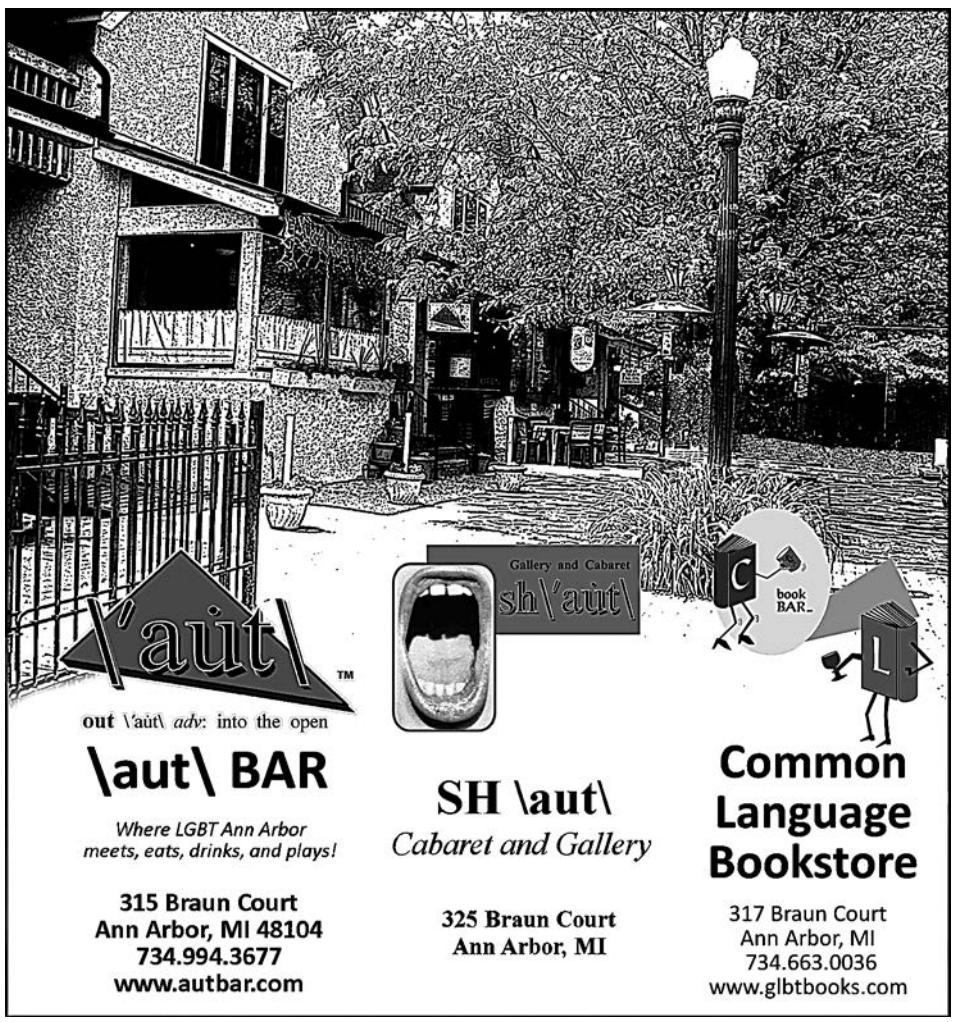

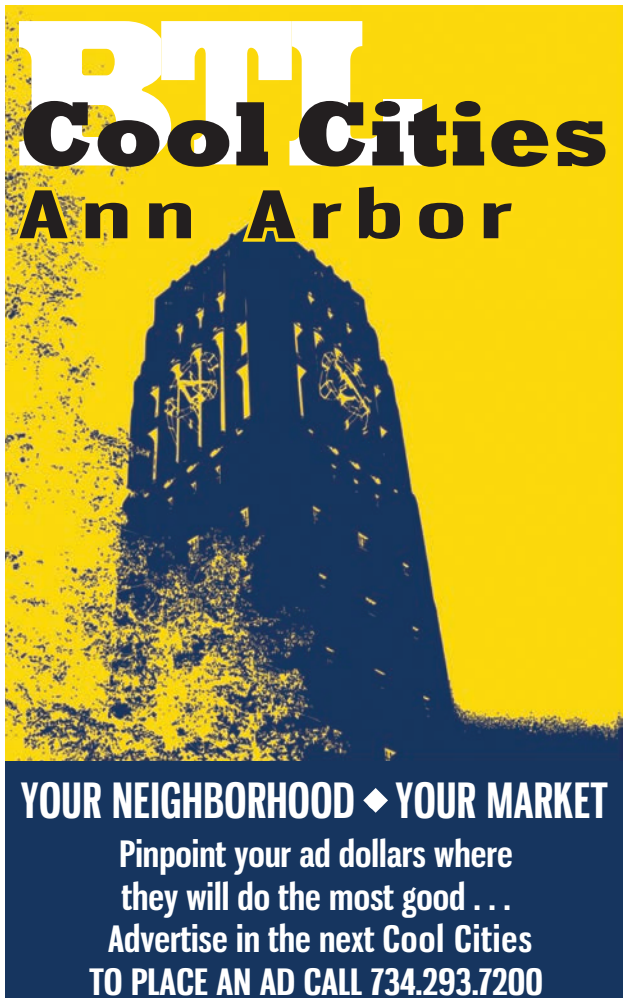
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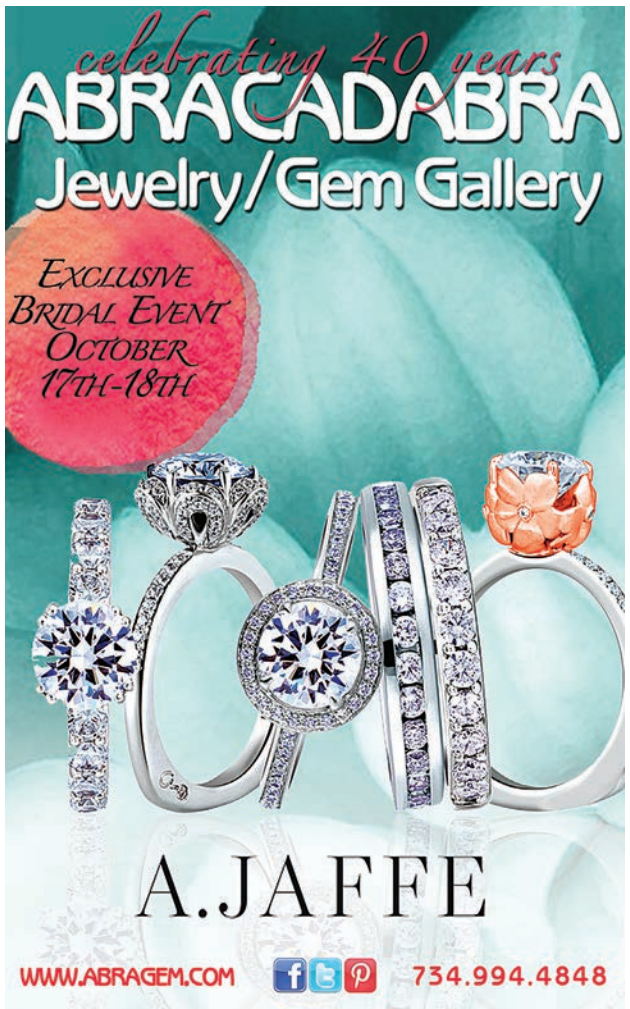
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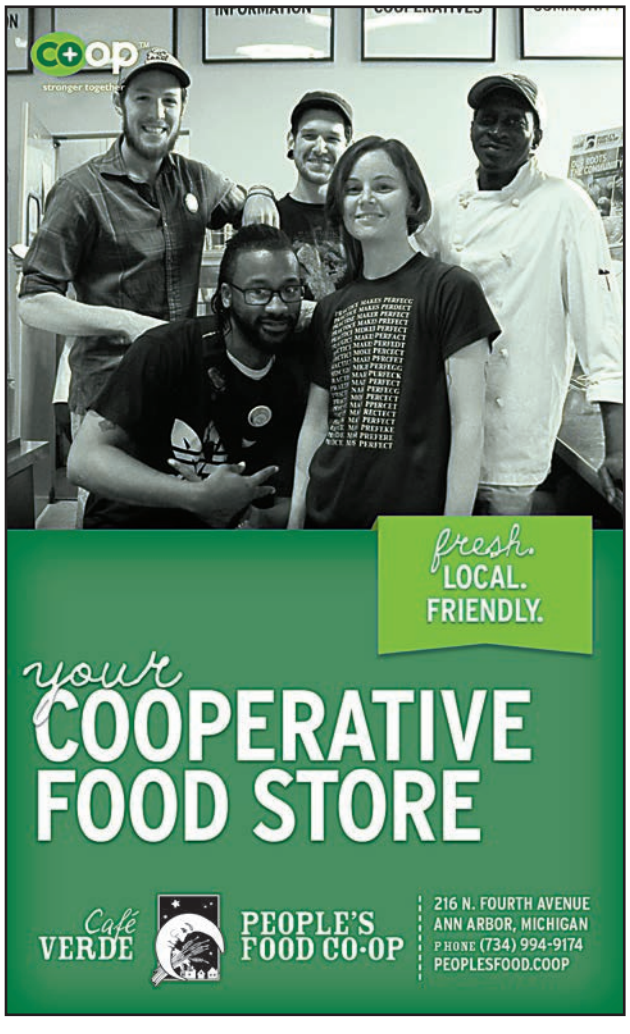
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The OutField

Gay Games Come To Cleveland – And Akron Too

BY DAN WOOG

Gay Games 9 took Cleveland by storm this month.

Oh, and Akron too.

Hold your snickers. Cleveland (and Akron) may not be San Francisco, Vancouver, New York, Amsterdam, Sydney, Chicago or Cologne – previous hosts of what would have been called the "Gay Olympics" had the Straight Olympics not gotten their panties in a bunch three decades ago. So "Gay Olympics" was out, even though the Straight Olympics folks had no problem with other Olympics names, like the Rat Olympics.

Still, the first Gay Games throbbed with impact. Founded in 1982 by former (Straight) Olympic decathlete Dr. Tom Waddell – though he was bisexual – they served dual purposes. They showed the world that athletes come in all sizes, shapes and sexualities (competition is open to all, regardless of sexual orientation, and there are no qualifying standards).

The Gay Games also promote personal growth. For countless men and women, the opportunity to compete with and against other LGBT people – because, face it, not a lot of straight folks are going to be there, whether it's called the Gay Olympics, Gay Games or Gay Anything Else – marked a turning point in their lives. Some came out simply by traveling to the event. Others were inspired to come out while there. By forming a community around two previously disparate concepts – "gay" and "sport" – the Gay Games represent a transcendent moment in our history and culture.

You may be forgiven for thinking that the 2014 Gay Games did not have the impact – or generate the publicity – of previous ones. In a year in which media attention has been lavished on Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted by an NFL team (Will he make the St. Louis Rams squad? What was his first workout like? What was post-workout shower like?); former player Billy Bean's hiring as Major League Baseball's first "ambassador for inclusion"; and MLB's belated, posthumous recognition of Glenn Burke's contribution to the sport (the semi-closeted outfielder's family was invited to the All-Star game in Minneapolis, where his sad life story was recalled, along with his invention of the high five – who knew?), this year's Gay Games have seemed like an afterthought. Or, worse, an anachronism.

(And if you think Cleveland hasn't gotten much attention, what about poor Akron? They're an official host city too.)

The situation is a bit different on the shores of Lake Erie. An intriguing array of sponsors signed up. A look at the list shows that a broad swath of society is now willing to put substantial money where their mouths are, in support of diversity, inclusion and good, gay fun. (It should be noted that the Gay Games include not only sports but cultural and social activities: a play called "My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding," a Big Bloody Mary Brunch, a tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and much more. Take that, Straight Olympics!).

One "platinum" sponsor is the Eaton power management company; another is Marriott. Four of the "gold" sponsors are the Cleveland Cavaliers NBA basketball team, Coca-Cola, United Airlines and Wells Fargo Advisors. "Silver" sponsors include the Akron General Medical Center, GE Lighting and Cleveland Indians. On the "bronze" list: Jewish Federation of Cleveland, and the University of Toledo.

Oh, yes: The United Church of Christ is a "silver" sponsor too. They're the first religious denomination to sign on as a major sponsor of the Gay Games. They're doing so, their website says, "to demonstrate the UCC commitment to inclusion, diversity, justice and human rights."

And even if the Gay Games hasn't generated huge publicity outside Cleveland (and Akron), a marketing campaign from a local ad agency drew some attention.

Created by Brokaw in collaboration with Kalman & Pabst Photo Group, it's a series of fantastic sports photos. There's a baseball player making a double play, a football player scoring a touchdown, a runner ready to burst out of the starting blocks.

So far, so normal. But Brokaw came up with a powerful title for the campaign: "That's So Gay."

"We felt that it was time to transform an ugly and ill-received phrase, and repurpose it into something that sheds a positive light on what these athletes work so hard to accomplish," said Steve McKeown, Brokaw creative director.

Then, tying "that's so gay" in with something else often derided – the Cleveland and Akron metropolitan areas (I know, just check out this column) – McKeown added, "We know people in Northeast Ohio understand the significance of repurposing – as evident by the transformation of the region these last few years."

You can take the Gay Games out of New York, San Francisco and Amsterdam. Cleveland is happy to have them.

Akron too.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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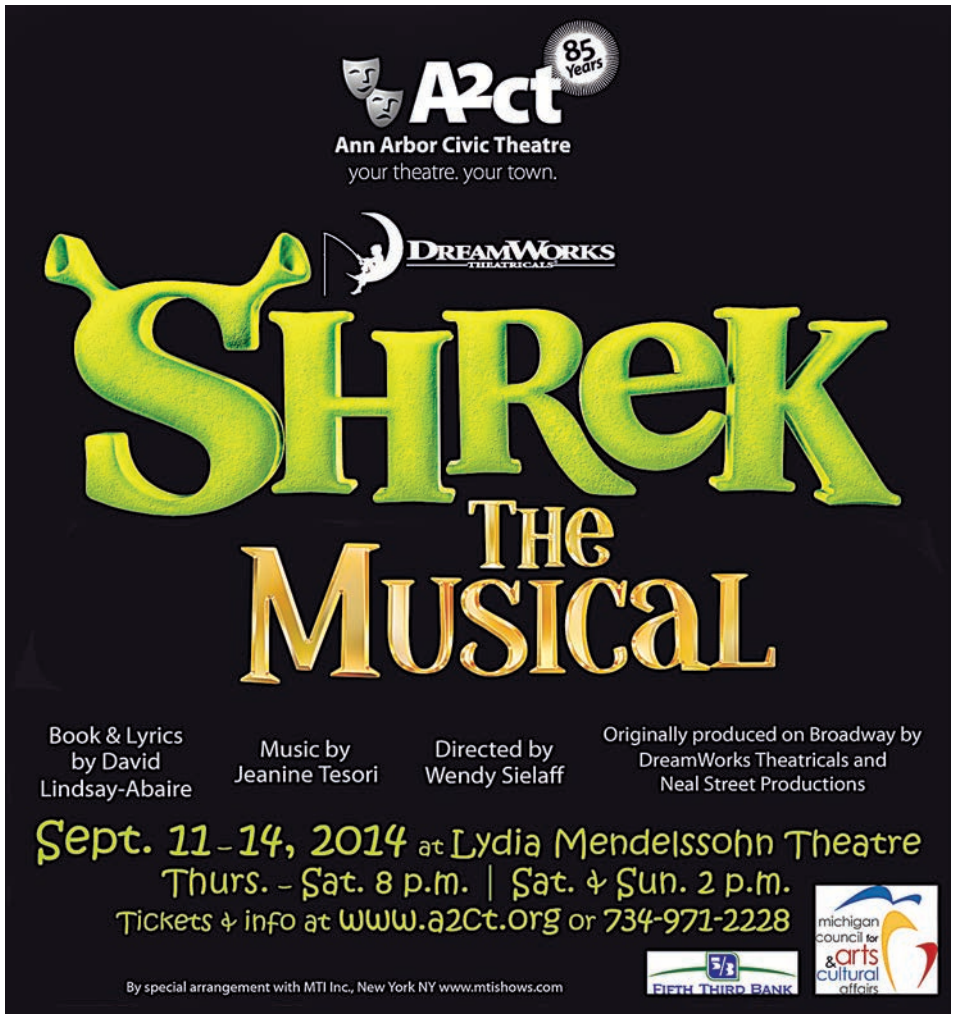
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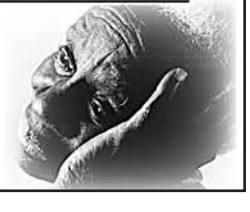
Celebrating 15 YEARS of SERVICE to LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

ROYAL OAK FARMERS MARKET

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info@aidswalkdetroit.org

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Editor's Pick

Birmingham Village Players proudly presents its first show of the 2014-15 season, the Midwest premiere of "Women on the Verge of A Nervous Breakdown," a musical version of Pedro Aldomovar's acclaimed film.

Set in Madrid, the show tells the story of Pepa Marcos, a successful commercial and voice-over actress who finds herself abandoned by her lover, Ivan who mysteriously disappears. Added to this complication are Pepa's good friend and model Candela, who finds out she's dating a Shiite terrorist; Ivan's estranged first wife Lucia; their son Carlos, and his uptight fiance, Marisa. This is further complicated by valium-laced gazpacho and a taxi-cab-and-motorcycle chase over a 48-hour period.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Sept. 12, 13, 19, 20 and 2 p.m. Sept. 14 and 21. Tickets are $20 each and available by calling 248-644-2075.

Village Players is located at 34660 Woodward Avenue, Birmingham.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 20

Michiganaidscoalition.org

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo.** 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Friday, Sept. 19

Artistic Women's Entertainment 1 a.m. AWE is female entertainment group in SE Michigan (largely lesbians) who sing, dance, perform spoken word and more. The show is a chance for women of all skills to get on stage with a supportive audience AWE, **Inkster.** 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Artisticwomensentertainment.org

Pride Media Exhibition Come and check out all the great local talent in Southeast Michigan! Interested in being one of our featured artists? Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

SCA Farmer's Market 9 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of hand-crafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck.** 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Artworks Detroit 6 p.m. Part of DIFFA. Tickets: $75. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **TBD.** Michiganaidscoalition.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Round Trip - When two women move to Tel Aviv to build better lives for their children, they end up finding each other -- and a surprisingly intimate friendship. While Nurit (Anat Waxman) is working to keep her children away from her deadbeat husband, Mushidi (Nthati Moshesh) has left her son behind in Africa so she can easily look for work. Nurit's subsequent decision to hire Mushidi as her children's nanny helps them both in their quest for change. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Bitch 8:30 p.m. Artistic Women's Entertainment (AWE), 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale.** Artisticwomensentertainment.org

Pride Friday 9 p.m. The one and only gay night. 18+. Guys with college ID get in free before 11 p.m. Cover: $5+. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor.** 734-994-5835. Thenecto.com

My Big Funny Peter 10 p.m. Beary Poppins, featuring Peter C. Bisuito. Tickets: $25. Emagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak.** 248-943-2411. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 20

AIDSWalk Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk, **Saginaw.** 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org

Cocktails by Design/ArtWorks Detroit Auction Original works of art by 150 artists, silent and live auction, enterw tainment, free valet parking, and appetizer stations by Epicurean Group. Tickets: $75-100. Michigan AIDS Coalition, **Detroit.** mmills@michiganaidscoalition.org michiganaidscoalition.org

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo Dogs, cats, puppies and kittens from more than 30 animal welfare organizations will be available for adoption. Free (standard admission rates into the zoo apply). The Michigan Humane Society and The Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, **Royal Oak.** 248-283-1000. Michiganhumane.org

Come Hungry, Leave Happy Strolling and tasting food tour. Meet at Rocky's or Mootown Ice Cream. Tickets: $29. Feet on the Street Tours, 2489 Russell St., **Detroit.** 248-353-8687. Enjoythed.com

Dining By Design Detroit (DIFFA) 6 p.m. First night: Cocktails by Design. Tickets: $100. Second night: Artworks Detroit. Tickets: $75. Final night: Gala Dinner. Tickets: $250. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 160 W. Fort, **Detroit.** Michiganaidscoalition.org

Gala Dinner 6 p.m. Part of DIFFA. Tickets: $250. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **TBD.** Michiganaidscoalition.org

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: $20. 18+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak.** 248-515-2551. Five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven Festival with Andre Watts" Tickets: $17-70. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 734-761-1800. A2so.com

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Signature Chamber Series". Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. Sept. 20 - Jan. 17. Chambermusicdetroit.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "MasterWorks 1: 85th Season Opener" Gandolfi: Garden of Cosmic Speculation: The Willowtwist. Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Sept. 12. 800-WHARTON. Lansingsymphony.org

Concerts

AEG LIve and The Ark "moe." Tickets: $25-45. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Sept. 19. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Blind Pig "Dan Henig" With special guests Keri Lynn Roche & Skyler. 18+. Tickets: $8-10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sept. 17. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "The Growlers" 18+. Tickets: $15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sept. 11. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Power Time Madre Muerte Dystopian Dogs "Black Death Demon B**** S********* Harbinger" Tickets: $15. Corktown Tavern Detroit, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 20. 313-964-5103. Facebook.com/events/267631803423027/

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Bring Me The Horizon" With Chiodos. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Sept. 12. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Janis Siegel" Tickets: $42. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. Sept. 19. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Acorn Theater "Janis Siegel of the Manhatten Transfer" Nine time Grammy winner. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sept. 18. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "The Doyle & Debbie Show" Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Iris DeMent" Tickets: $35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 20. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Comas" Tickets: $15. Dinner/Show package available in person at The Ark or Connor O'Neill's: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 17. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Gaelic Storm" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Living Colour" Tickets: $25. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sept. 19. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Dandy Warhols" Tickets: $25. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sept. 16. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

Shows

Cabaret 313 "Liz Callaway" Tickets: $25-125. Players Club Playhouse, Detroit. Sept. 13 - Sept. 13. 313-405-5061. Cabaret313.org

One Pause Poetry and White Lotus Farms "Art in the Garden: A Poetry Reading with C. D. Wright and Forrest Gander" Free. White Lotus Farms, 7217 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sept. 12. 734-707-1284. Onepausepoetry.org

Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University "Michele Norris" Tickets: $20. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Dog Sees God Contains adult themes and language. $15. Monster Box Theatre, 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford. Sep. 11 - 13. www.Monsterboxtheatre.com

Guys and Dolls $12-17. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Richmond. Through Sep. 21. 586-727-9518. www.richmondtheatre.com

My Fair Lady $20-22. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Sep. 12 - Oct. 5. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers $16-20. The Society for the Re-Institutionalization of Storytelling at Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 19. 313-744-6037. www.Secretstorytellers.org

Shrek the Musical $13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sep. 11 - 14. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Young Frankenstein $19-22. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 11 - 21. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Professional

Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches $10-29. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 12 - 27. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika $10-29. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sep. 29. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Annapurna $12-42. The Purple Rose

See Happenings, page 30

HOTLINES & SERVICES

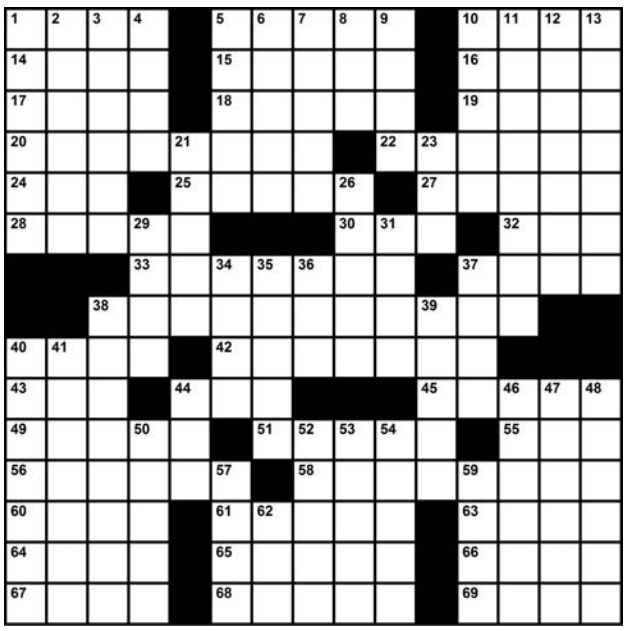
ACLU of Michigan	313-578-6800
Affirmations Helpline	248-398-GAYS
Alcoholics Anonymous	248-541-6565
Eastern Michigan University LGBT Resource Center	734-487-4149
Equality Michigan	313-537-7000
Flint Crisis Line	810-257-3740
HIV AIDS/Resource Center Toll-Free	866-HIV-TEST
Jim Toy Community Center	734-995-9867
Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)	269-349-4234
Karibu House Community Center for LGBT Persons of Color	313-865-2170 ext. 3
Lansing Area AIDS Network	517-394-3719
Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) Toll-Free	888-A-CONDOM
Oakland County Health Division Toll-Free	888-350-0990 ext. 85416
OutCenter	269-925-8330
PFLAG Ann Arbor	734-741-0659
PFLAG Detroit	248-656-2875
PFLAG Genesee County	810-496-8302
PFLAG Lansing	517-332-4550
PFLAG Tri-Cities Bay City/Saginaw/Midland	989-941-1458
Stonewall Bar Association (LGBT lawyers and allies)	313-578-6812
The LGBT Network of Western Michigan	616-458-3511
Transgender Michigan Help Line	517-420-1544
Unity Michigan	269-290-1427
Wellness AIDS Services	810-232-0888

Find these organizations and hundreds of LGBT-friendly businesses online at Pridesource.comcom/directory.html

Don't Miss the Fall
Pamper Your Pets Guide,
published Sept. 18!

Q Puzzle

Stuck On You



Across

1 What a knight takes to go clubbing?
5 Stick it to
10 160 rods
14 Type of history
15 Kane in "All My Children"
16 Like so
17 Ian McKellen and Elton John
18 Failure to accept others, and others
19 Silence for Tchaikovsky
20 With 38-Across, opening number of this puzzle's musical
22 Tickle pink
24 Verb ending
25 German Surrealist Max
27 "South Pacific" nuts
28 Dahl's Willy
30 Place for future Lts.
32 Eliza Doolittle's 'ades?
33 Dancer Duncan
37 Mystery writer Gardner
38 See 20-Across
40 Biathlete's slats
42 Roughly half an NFL team
43 LAX letters
44 Salt's "sl"
45 More queer
49 Totally uncool
51 Late comedian Williams
55 Gardner of "Show Boat"
56 Eleanor's husband's middle name
58 Musical about conjoined twins who performed on vaudeville
60 Richard of "A Summer Place"
61 Go down
63 "It's Not the Size That Counts" star Sommer
64 Tickled pink
65 Pretends to have an orgasm
66 Positions for Patty Sheehan
67 Quite, to Colette
68 Opening
69 Bringing up the rear

Down

1 " ___ on the Hudson," of 51-Across
2 Melodic, to Bernstein
3 Bizet opera
4 Additional
5 Kahlo in drag?
6 Vocalize softly
7 Dick Button skaters on them
8 Prefix for system
9 Flier with a stinging butt
10 Up ___ (stuck)
11 Unfaithful lovers
12 Lyricist Bill of 58-Across
13 Parsons on the screen
21 Minimum amount
23 R. Simmons helps you lose them
26 Baseball manager Joe
29 Do-it-yourselfer's purchases
31 Normandy city
34 Cruising greeting
35 Submit (to)
36 On vacation
37 Just managed, with "out"
38 Movie with the line "Don't call me Shirley"
39 In concert
40 Most down in the mouth
41 Composer Henry of 58-Across
44 Objectivist Rand
46 Showy bloom
47 Causes to come out
48 Most like hard-core porn
50 What Donald Duck lacks down below
52 Japanese port
53 Risky blow job partner?
54 That is, to Cicero
57 Meatheads
59 Bear market order
62 Club for swingers

Solution on pg. 30

A Couple of guys®
by Dave Brousseau
"Baby Steps"
ERIC, GUESS WHAT?!
GABRIEL WALKED JUST NOW!
THAT'S GREAT, ANDY.
e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com
HE TOOK, LIKE, FIVE STEPS STRAIGHT TOWARD ME.
HIS OTHER FATHER IS JUST A FEW FEET AWAY, BUT HE WALKED TO ME.
www.facebook.com/acoupleofguys
MY SON, GABRIEL. I'LL BET WHEN HE STARTS TALKING, HE'LL CALL ME "DADA" BEFORE TIM!
IF I EVER GET THIS DOOR UNLOCKED, I'M GONNA MURDER HIM.
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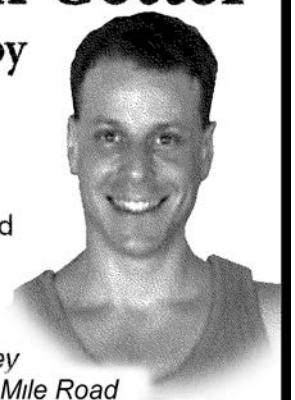
A Tension Getter

Massage Therapy
by David Rosenberg
(734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain



2 Downtown Locations

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209 West
Kingsley

Berkley
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112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIFFA: DINING BY DESIGN & ArtWorks Detroit

Detroit's most original event, involving members of our fabulous design and art community

Cocktails by Design - Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014

ArtWorks Detroit - Friday, Sept. 19, 2014

Dining by Design - Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014

DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS

Benefits Michigan AIDS Coalition

www.michiganaidscoalition.org - click on DIFFA Dining by Design and ArtWorks Detroit

Located at the former Federal Reserve Building, 160 Fort St. Detroit, near Campus Martius

For information, contact Monica Mills at (248) 545-1435, ext. 117, or mmills@michiganaidscoalition.org

320 EMPLOYMENT - WANTED

Part Time Accounting Assistant at Roostertail

Description: Applicant gains experience by working with onsite certified public accountant.

Requirements: Being organized, office level computer competency, and ability to multitask and work in a fast paced office setting.

Send cover letter and resume to: Pam Dangelis, Roostertail, 100 Marquette Dr., Detroit, MI 48214. p. (313) 822-1234, f. (313) 822-7988 or email Pam@Roostertail.com.

Event Coordinator in Training

Company: Roostertail

Job Description: Applicant will conduct office administrative tasks and work with Sales Team to move towards a full-time sales position.

Requirements or Qualifications:

Office level computer competency

Excellent grammar and letter drafting skills

Good people skills

How to Apply:

Please email, fax, or hand deliver cover letter and resume addressed to: Carl Ghigliazza, Roostertail, 100 Marquette Dr., Detroit, MI 48214. p. (313) 822-1234, f. (313) 822-7988

Email: Carl@Roostertail.com

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE

- For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. $10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. http://www.trymassage.com

Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor
TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at massage4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Necto, Wolverine State Brewing Co. and the Jim Toy Community Center present
The 20th Annual
OUTFEST
a community celebration
SAVE THE DATE

The largest and longest-running annual LGBT event in Washtenaw County

Saturday, September 27, 2014
6 p.m. – Midnight
Braun Court, Ann Arbor
www.JimToyCenter.org

Featuring ...
Katie Geddes
2nd Annual Outfest Drag Show
Necto Dance Party
Wolverine State Brewing Beer Pavilion

JIM TOY COMMUNITY CENTER · NECTO · WOLVERINE STATE BREWING CO. · BTL Between The Lines

TIES LIKE ME

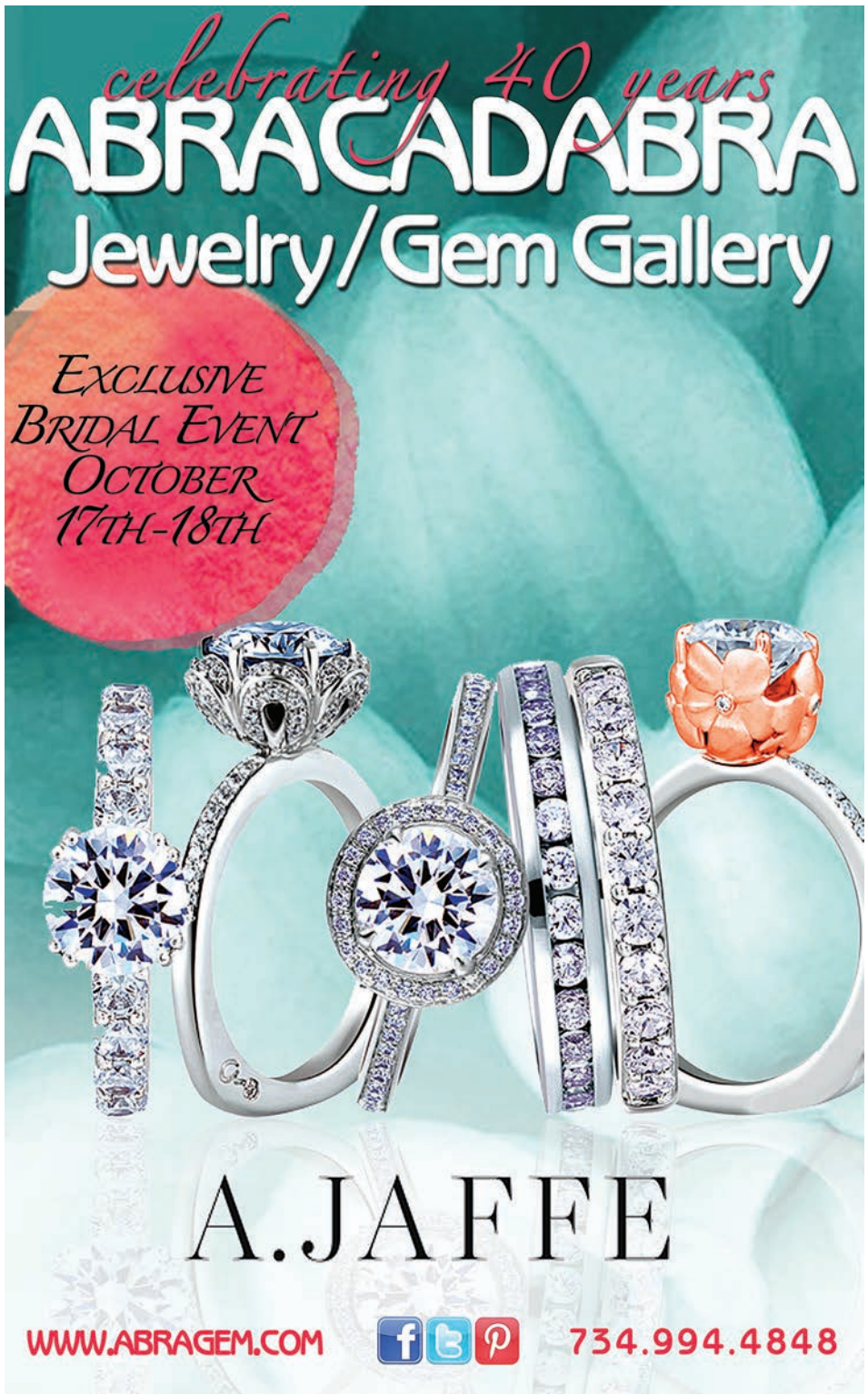
Ties Like Me
Business Expo & Film Screening

Ties Like Me is teaming up with Emagine for a business expo like never before! Come network with other LGBT business professionals and entrepreneurs then enjoy an 8 p.m. screening of "You Should Meet My Son"

Wednesday, September 17, 5 to 8 p.m.
Emagine Theater Royal Oak
200 North Main in Royal Oak

www.tieslikeme.org
Like Us on Facebook

Sponsored by Emagine Theater Royal Oak Media Sponsor: Between The Lines



Puzzle solution on pg. 28

M	A	C	E		S	C	R	E	W		A	C	R	E
O	R	A	L		E	R	I	C	A		T	H	U	S
S	I	R	S		N	O	N	O	S		R	E	S	T
C	O	M	E	L	O	O	K		P	L	E	A	S	E
O	S	E		E	R	N	S	T		B	E	T	E	L
W	O	N	K	A				O	C	S		E	L	L
			I	S	A	D	O	R	A		E	R	L	E
		A	T	T	H	E	F	R	E	A	K	S		
S	K	I	S		O	F	F	E	N	S	E			
A	R	R		A	Y	E				O	D	D	E	R
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D	E	L	A	N	O		S	I	D	E	S	H	O	W
E	G	A	N		A	B	A	T	E		E	L	K	E
S	E	N	T		F	A	K	E	S		L	I	E	S
T	R	E	S		S	T	A	R	T		L	A	S	T

Say Hello To DJ!

Meet DJ! This 9-month-old Terrier mix is a fun-loving fellow. He can be shy at first, but is sure to warm up quickly and let his playful and loving personality come out! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, visit or call the MHS Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 786853.

Pet of the Week made possible by
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital
3800 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-832-7282
www.pattersondogandcat.com

Editor's Pick

The Detroit Artists Market (DAM) presents its fall exhibit, "Abstraction and Landscape: Contemporary Woodcut." The group exhibition features the work of six international, national and local printmakers. University of Michigan's professor of art and design, Endi Poskovic, curates the exhibit.

The exhibition includes groupings of large prints, individual prints, artists' books, as well as a three-dimensional work suspended from above. A special public reception for the display will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first day of the exhibition.

DAM's upcoming exhibit will run from Sept.12-Oct. 18. The Detroit Artists Market is located at 4719 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. For more information, visit www.detroitartistsmarket.org.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 27

Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Sep. 18 - Dec. 20. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Bernhardt on Broadway $24.50-28.50. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 13. 800-838-3066. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/717334

Boeing Boeing $10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Sep. 19 - Oct. 4. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.com

Grey Gardens $12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Sep. 12 - 21. 269-781-2700. www.greatescapestagecompany.com

Improv Mondays $5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star $20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Through Sep. 21. 810-278-1749. www.thesnugtheatre.com

Michigan Burlesque Festival $15-25. Fancy Pants Arts and Entertainment, Hastings Street Ballroom/Tangent Gallery, 715 Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. Sep. 19 - 20. www.Brownpapertickets.com/event/820304

Sleeping Beauty $5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Sep. 28. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Spamalot $15-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Sep. 18 - Oct. 12. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

The Big Story of Lazarus Small $10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Sep. 27. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

The Secret Garden $32-34. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sep. 19 - Oct. 12. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatrel.com

The Tempest $25. Shakespeare in Detroit at Marlene Boll Theater inside the YMCA Detroit, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Sep. 20 - 21. www.shakespeareindetroit.com

The Value of Names $41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through Oct. 12. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. Aug. 15 - Oct. 16. Artdetroitnow.com

Common Ground and The Guild of Artists & Artisans "Birmingham Street Art Fair" More than 130 juried artists will be featured in this elegant setting; more than 80,000 fairgoers attend annually. Downtown Birmingham, South Old Woodward, Birmingham. Sept. 20 - Sept. 21. Theguild.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Culture Breakers: The Living Structures of Ken Isaacs". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 5. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart. edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "Abstraction and Landscape: Contemporary Woodcut" Curated by Endi Poskovic. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 12 - Oct. 18. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Art Heals". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Sept. 11 - Sept. 30. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Fourth Annual Juried Photography Exhibit". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Sept. 5 - Sept. 26. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: $10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7 - Nov. 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Ferndale Public Library "Menagerie A Group Exhibition" Artists reception is Thursday, Aug. 28th from 7-9 pm. Ferndale Public LIbrary, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 28 - Oct. 11. 248-546-2504. Ferndalepubliclibrary.org/index. php/art-exhibitions

Flint Institute of Arts "Diann Benoit and Suzanne Rock" Featured artists for September and October. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Sept. 7 - Oct. 31. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Michigan State University Museum "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu. edu

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu. edu

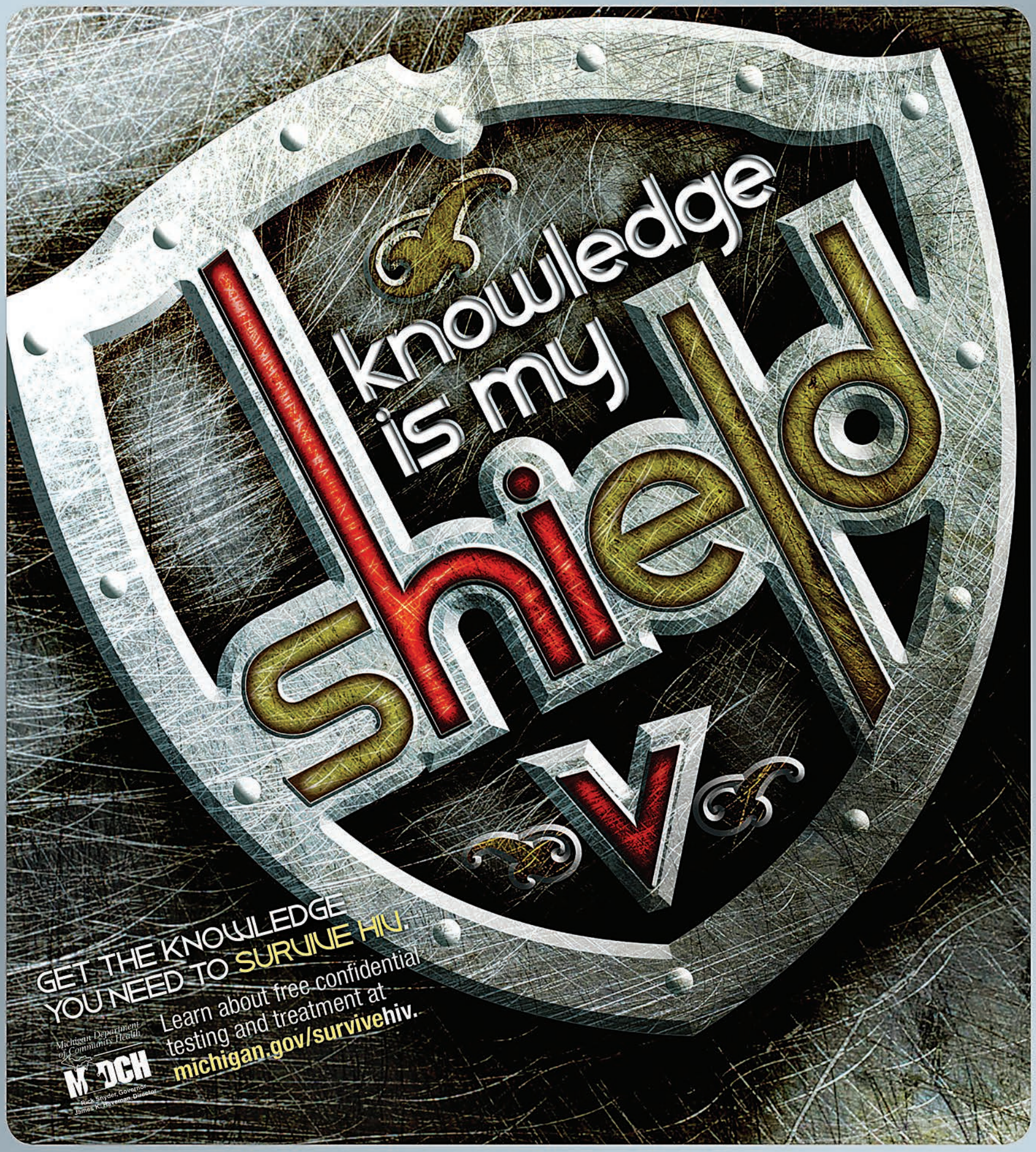
MOCAD "The People's Biennial" It examines the work of artists and other creative individuals, who operate outside the conventional art world. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 12 - Dec. 31. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

River's Edge Gallery "Breathe Fire. Drink Water. Repeat." Artists Audrey Pongracz, Ingrid Blixt and Corey Scillian. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. Sept. 5 - Oct. 5. 734-246-9880. Artatthedge.com

Saline Antiques & Vintage MarketET "Saline Antiques & Vintage Market" An ever changing array of upcycled, recycled, and repurposed one-of-a-kind treasures, cool stuff, great local food and exciting shopping. Leashed pets welcome. Free parking. Tickets: $6. Washtenaw Farm Council Roads, 5055 Ann Arbor/Saline Road, Ann Arbor. Sept. 20 - Dec. 7. 937-875-0808. Facebook.com/pages/Saline-Antiques-Market/107333849321152?ref=hl

The Heidelberg Project "NewCo" The Heidelberg Project is proud to be one of the organizations returning to the impressive line-up of presenters. This mash-up of an open studio tour and a business conference, with the vibe of a music festival will fill up fast, so sign up. The Heidelberg Project, Heidelberg St., Detroit. 1 p.m. Sept. 18. 313-974-6894. Heidelberg.org

The Scarab Club "United States". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Sept. 10 - Oct. 18. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org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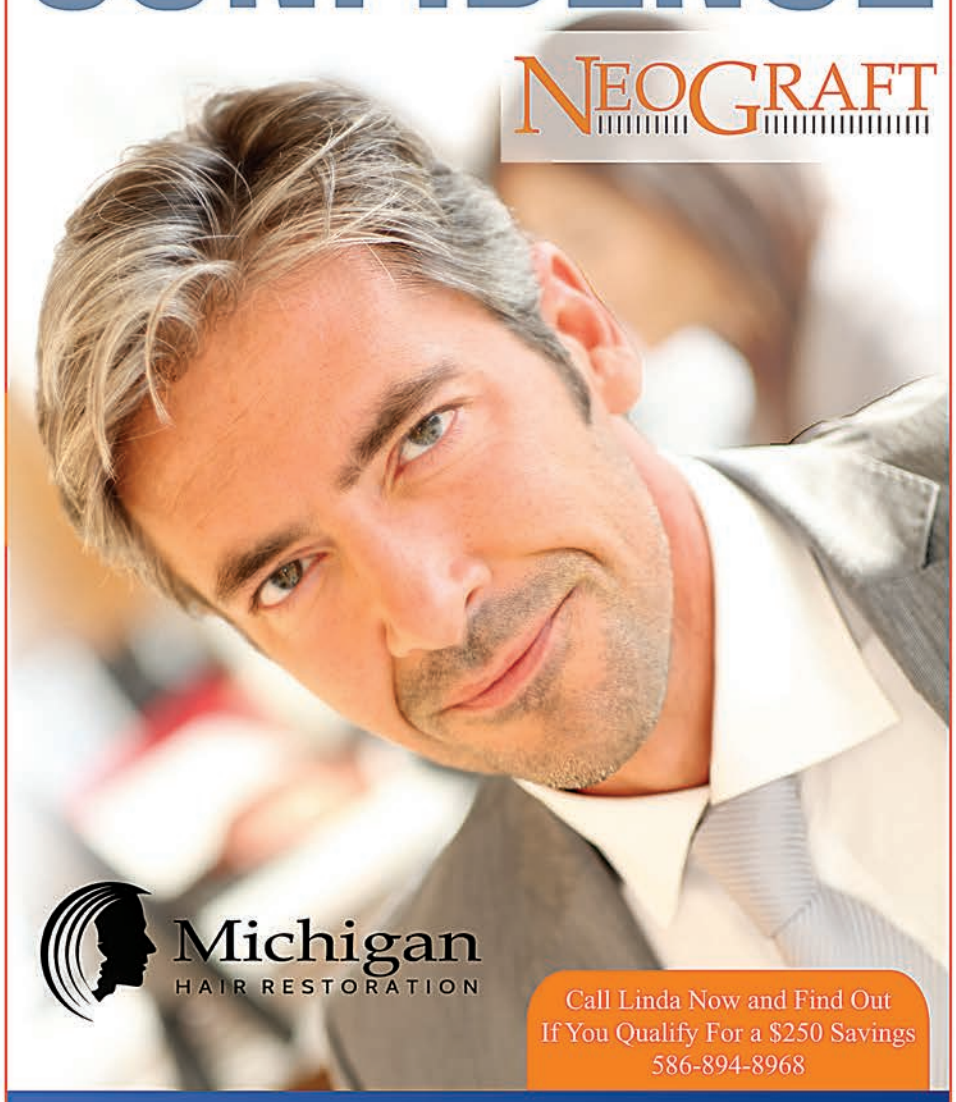

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